

KCM Good News

Kentucky Math Summit Unites Educators to Enhance Mathematics Achievement Across the State



The Kentucky Center for Mathematics (KCM), Kentucky Council of Teachers of Mathematics (KCTM), and Kentucky Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (KAMTE) collaborated on a productive summit in Berea, KY on September 28, 2023.

In a bid to amplify mathematics achievement trends in Kentucky, educators from across the state gathered at the Historic Boone Tavern in Berea on September 28, 2023, for the highly anticipated Kentucky Math Summit. This influential event, co-moderated by the Kentucky Center for Mathematics (KCM), the Kentucky Council of Teachers of Mathematics (KCTM), and the Kentucky Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (KAMTE), provided a platform for dedicated mathematics educators to discuss, analyze, and propose research-based solutions, with the aim of enhancing student achievement in mathematics across the state.

The Kentucky Math Summit commenced with KCM Executive Director Kelly Stone DeLong leading the way by reviewing and discussing vital NAEP/Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) trends data. The goal was to harness the collective experience and expertise of the attendees to analyze this data and derive meaningful insights. This comprehensive analysis will be summarized in a brief to serve as a valuable resource for educators and policymakers in Kentucky.

Following DeLong's presentation, Dr. Jonathan Thomas, President of KAMTE, took the stage to discuss pre-service teacher preparation. His presentation delved into the current benefits and constraints of the university approach to teacher preparation, identifying areas where improvement is needed.

Thomas, emphasizing the value of diverse perspectives, stated, "It was a great opportunity to get stakeholders from many different educational spaces together and thinking on how to best meet the mathematical needs of KY students. From a teacher preparation perspective, viewpoints from outside our institutions of higher education are so valuable and lead to more capable and empowered early-career teachers." This acknowledgment of the importance of collaboration between various stakeholders set the stage for a broader discussion on enhancing teacher education in the state and addressing the specific requirements of Kentucky's future educators.

The final segment of the summit featured Dr. Bethany Noblitt, President of KCTM, who presented "Kentucky Solutions for Kentucky Teachers." Dr. Noblitt posed three essential questions to the attendees:

1. What are Kentucky teachers doing NOW to influence student achievement?
2. What can Kentucky (teachers, administrators, legislators, and others) do to SCALE these practices across the state?
3. What does Kentucky (teachers, administrators, legislators, and others) need to do NEXT to improve student achievement even more?

The responses and ideas shared by the attendees were meticulously recorded and collected, forming the basis for future initiatives aimed at enhancing student success, boosting teacher confidence, and raising mathematics achievement levels across Kentucky.



Dedicated educators, with a strong focus on fostering student success, continuously considered enriching learning experiences like the family math night depicted above while sharing innovative solutions tailored to the needs of Kentucky students.

In reflecting on the significance of the summit, Chrystal Rowland, Director of the Division of Program Standards in the Office of Teaching and Learning at the Kentucky Department of Education, stated, "All Kentucky students deserve to be equipped and empowered to attain mathematics proficiency through routine opportunities to experience high-quality mathematics instruction, to learn challenging mathematics content and to receive the supports needed to be successful. We know that much is needed to attain this goal. I appreciated the space provided for stakeholders across the Commonwealth to come together with their expertise and knowledge to bring potential pathways to light in pursuit of mathematics achievement for ALL Kentucky students. At

no time has the need for collective solutions been greater." Dr. Kate Marin of the University of Louisville's College of Education and Human Development added her perspective, saying, "It was a great day! It was inspiring to see so many math educators representing all corners of the Kentucky educational universe in one room. Seeing folks from the Kentucky Department of Education, higher ed institutions, education collaboratives, and K-12 schools come together with a common goal, improving the math education of Kentucky's children, was truly amazing. I know that if we all continue to work together, we can make a real difference in the educational outcomes of our Commonwealth's children. I am so grateful to KCM for bringing us all together and facilitating this important work."



The summit concluded with a collective summary of the wealth of expertise and insights shared throughout the day, leaving attendees with significant points and thoughts to ponder. This event served as a source of inspiration for all participants, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and shared expertise in improving mathematics education across Kentucky. The Kentucky Math Summit was a resounding success, and the collaborative efforts of the KCM, KCTM, and KAMTE have set a promising trajectory for the future of mathematics education in the state. The dedication and passion exhibited by educators at the summit underscore the commitment to ensuring that Kentucky's students receive the best possible mathematics education. As Kentucky continues to strive for excellence in mathematics education, the knowledge and insights gained from this summit will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the state's educational landscape.

