



Bereda Weddle, an MIT (Mathematics Intervention Teacher) at Nancy Elementary in Pulaski County is one of seven recipients of the Northern Kentucky University Trailblazer Award for Mathematics Education. She has 24 years of teaching experience, including 3 years as an MIT. Despite many years in the classroom, she still maintains a strong excitement about learning new ways to help students become successful with mathematics.

Through her participation in two intensive KCM (Kentucky Center for Mathematics) professional learning experiences, comprising a total of 30 days of job-embedded training, Bereda has acquired and implemented tools and strategies for helping over 100 students develop number sense and advanced mental computation skills so they can be successful in the classroom. Bereda explains that through these trainings, she now has “all the pieces of the puzzle” and a true understanding of number sense. She has seen students who once hated math blossom with new attitudes as they gain confidence in their abilities to be successful. Bereda says she never gets tired of students saying, “Oh, I get it now!” and continues to be inspired by their achievements.

Evidence of Bereda’s impact with students can be seen in the 2013-2014 MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment. On average, Bereda’s first, second, third and fourth grade intervention students realized MAP gains far exceeding the expected gains based on national norms. For example, Bereda’s first grade intervention students on average showed gains of 25.8 RIT (Rausch Unit) points from fall to spring and her third grade intervention students on average gained 23 RIT points where only 11 points were expected.

Bereda has shared her passion and knowledge with more than 25 colleagues at her school so they could also implement innovative teaching ideas and resources. She participates in her school’s professional learning community, engaging in collaborative problem-solving as she and other teachers discuss the progress and needs of students having difficulty with mathematics. She has witnessed transformations as other teachers come to appreciate the power of using manipulatives for developing strong number sense.

Nancy Elementary Principal Michael Gregg values Bereda as “a vital member of the team—always willing to assist in any way possible,” as she shares and models effective tools and strategies for developing numeracy. In regards to her work with students he says, “She cares about kids and she takes her role as an educator very seriously. I appreciate her efforts and attention to detail as she transforms students into confident math learners.”

Bereda shared a Family Math Night showcase with other MITs during a session at the KCM’s statewide conference in March 2014, resulting in an invitation from a postsecondary faculty member to visit their campus and conduct a Family Math Night showcase. Bereda would like all undergraduate pre-service teachers to have learning opportunities similar to those she’s received through Math Recovery and the KCM so they are prepared with powerful tools and strategies for developing basic skills and understanding of numbers.