

# GOOD NEWS

FROM THE KENTUCKY CENTER  
FOR MATHEMATICS



## GRANT COUNTY EDUCATOR WINS PRESTIGIOUS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

Kentucky Center for Mathematics (KCM) Master Coach Shannon Brickler is the 2017 recipient of the esteemed PAEMST (Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching). Shannon has been very active in KCM professional learning programs over the past five years, taking part in EERTI (Enacting Effective Response to Intervention), annual conferences, Content Coaching, Master Coaching and co-leading the Master Coaching program. For Shannon, the information and resources she received through her participation in so many KCM courses were enhanced by "the encouragement and support from the teachers in the [KCM] programs who fueled my professional fire."

As her passion grew, Shannon found the fact that she loved teaching math to be "amazing since as a student I was never interested in math. I was taught procedurally and never made connections to other mathematical knowledge." After taking part in KCM content coaching as a teacher and seeing the impact that a coach could have, Shannon was inspired to take on the coaching role herself. This experience allowed her "to learn and network with other coaches all the while providing support and resources." Shannon says she will "always be grateful for the impact [KCM] has had on my professional journey."

Working with KCM, Shannon was able to fully develop both as a teacher and coach of mathematics and now has the confidence to assume a leadership role and share her knowledge with others. Shannon has even pioneered a classroom blog to connect with others via student-led videos on understanding mathematical concepts. Utilizing KCM methods led to her students encouraging one another, examining mistakes and celebrating alternative strategies.

A graduate of Northern Kentucky University, Shannon started her career at Ockerman Middle School, teaching special education. She also taught for 13 years at Dry Ridge Elementary, before taking a Curriculum Specialist position at Sherman Elementary in Grant County.

Shannon became intrigued with teaching early on, growing up with a brother who had a learning disability. She was able to see "the difference a teacher could make for a child that learned differently from others." Outside of the classroom, she enjoys white water rafting, gardening and reading. In particular, she enjoys reading the Cathy Seeley books that were part of KCM's Master Coaching program to which she shares "a big thanks to KCM for providing the books!" Shannon also enjoys musicals, like her favorite, *The Sound of Music*.

**"I WAS LIKE THE CONDUCTOR  
OF A MATHEMATICAL  
ORCHESTRA AND THE  
STUDENTS WERE MAKING  
BEAUTIFUL MUSIC."**



- SHANNON BRICKLER ON HOW  
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING HAS  
IMPACTED HER CLASSROOM

The PAEMST is awarded annually to K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. For the PAEMST application, Shannon had to demonstrate her understanding of mathematical content, instructional strategies, assessment and professional learning.