

# GOOD NEWS

FROM THE KENTUCKY CENTER  
FOR MATHEMATICS



## KCM IMPACTS PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS

A recent NKU Alumni Spotlight article has illuminated KCM's impact on elementary pre-service math teachers! KCM Faculty Associate, Funda Gonulates, was recognized for her work as a professor of the Teacher Education Department's "Teaching Elementary Mathematics" course, which was revealed to be a favorite by NKU alumni.

Funda's "Teaching Elementary Mathematics" course features insights that she gained through KCM professional learning. As students learn, they construct a repertoire of materials on methods for teaching problem solving, reasoning and connections of the curriculum concepts with the world around us. Some of these concepts covered include number/computation, geometry/measurement and early algebraic thinking.

Funda strives to provide students with a strong theoretical background, while still leaving time for enough real-world practice opportunities. Working with pre-service teachers is something Funda enjoys, because they are usually not afraid to try new ideas. This excitement for new ideas contributes to a positive classroom culture.

In a perfect blend of her work, Funda provides pre-service teachers with actual examples of in-service teachers analyzing lessons. These lessons come from KCM's "Exploring Cultures of Mathematical Sense Making" course, which Funda also facilitates. In this and many other ways, Funda shares insight gained through KCM learning experiences with pre-service teachers in her "Teaching Elementary Mathematics" course.

When working with pre-service teachers, Funda utilizes many of the same KCM resources she uses with in-service teachers. She enjoys sharing insights and observations gained through reflections on her school visits. She encourages teachers to use games and activities provided on the KCM website, especially those found on the KNPI

guide. In her work with pre-service teachers, Funda shares that her purpose "from all of those conversations is to help my students visualize what might happen in an actual, productive mathematics classroom."

Funda's expertise in the field, coupled with KCM gained data and insights, allow these pre-service teachers to have a transformative experience. Her courses move participants beyond the role of student. Students are able to explore various problem solving strategies while examining why and when those strategies are successful.

As we recognize that learning begins early and never ceases, KCM welcomes all opportunities to work with mathematics and teacher education departments across the commonwealth. We are very excited when we have the opportunity to reengage pre-service teachers in the field

**"We are able to create  
this ideal world of  
teaching with all the  
good things about  
teaching mathematics  
in it."**

-FUNDA GONULATES,  
KCM FACULTY ASSOCIATE,  
ON PRESERVICE TEACHER  
EDUCATION



as they begin to implement research-based teaching practices in the classroom.

KCM recognizes the importance of student-centered teaching and teachers as facilitators of student learning. Funda explains that "planning for a classroom discourse where students feel included and their ideas are valued is not an easy task; it requires a lot of preparation!"