



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF MATHEMATICS TEACHER EDUCATORS

Newsletter

Summer 2019

President's Message

Cynthia E. Taylor, *Millersville University of Pennsylvania*
PAMTE President

“PAMTE's mission is to promote the improvement of mathematics teacher education in all its aspects in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.” In my first President's message (PAMTE Newsletter, Fall 2018), I encouraged you to let me know what you do at your university/what your ideas are related to recruiting future mathematics teachers and what is working at your universities. What should PAMTE do? What have PAMTE members been doing? In this address, I shared some ideas that current members were implementing at their respective universities. Below, I share what PAMTE is currently supporting.

Pre-Service Teacher Day—“East” and “West”

As an organization, over the past two years, PAMTE has co-sponsored a pre-service teacher day in the “east” and “west” that has drawn nearly three hundred prospective teachers across Pennsylvania to the conference. This year on October 19th, there will again be a pre-service teacher day where future K-12 mathematics teachers will have the opportunity to engage and attend sessions that will address issues that will be relevant to them as future mathematics teachers.

Pennsylvania (PA) Mathematics Education Coalition

At the 2019 AMTE Conference, I shared at the Affiliate Connections Session the history of the PA Mathematics Education Coalition—where it has come from and where it is headed. Below, I provide some highlights.

Three years ago, in Summer 2016, the leaders (at the time) of PAMTE—Tom Evitts, past PAMTE President and Kate Remillard, PAMTE President; PCTM (Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of Mathematics)—Marian Avery, PCTM President; and PCLM (Pennsylvania Council of Leaders in Mathematics)—Carol Buckley, PCLM President; met in person for an initial face to face meeting to begin a discussion and garner interest around forming a mathematics education coalition in Pennsylvania. They decided it would be a good idea and that Fall, several members from PAMTE, PCTM, and PCLM met virtually to start a conversation centered around

informing K-12 classroom teachers with what is going on with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The initial members included: a) two from PCTM: President and President elect; b) five from PAMTE: members of the board; and c) three from PCLM: co-Presidents. Members from the three organizations had a history of being “informed” and “updated” by PDE, but no history of “partnering” with PDE. In November 2016, there was an initial meeting to create a mission statement. The document that was created was:

Pennsylvania Mathematics Education Coalition

MISSION STATEMENT

The central mission of the Pennsylvania Mathematics Education Coalition is to inform state (commonwealth) and local policymakers and the public on all aspects of high-quality mathematics education and to advocate for policies that will improve mathematics education at every level.

In addressing this mission:

- We need to be proactively making connections with policy makers, PDE, and the public to educate them on important mathematics education topics.
- We need to serve as a central depot for monitoring legislation that affects mathematics education and educate our membership (PCTM, PAMTE, and PCLM).

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Mathematics education must be elevated as a state priority as reflected through education reforms, policies to drive innovation, and state and local spending priorities.
2. Mathematics education is closely linked with our state's economic prosperity in a global economy. Strong mathematics skills are a central element of a well-rounded education and essential to effective citizenship.
3. Pennsylvania must expand the capacity and diversity of the STEM education and workforce pipeline to prepare more students for the best jobs of the future that will keep Pennsylvania innovative, secure, and competitive.
4. Policy makers at every level must be informed about policy issues related to mathematics education and their implications for the economy, leadership, and vibrancy of its society.
5. Effective policies to promote mathematics education as a state priority should be bipartisan and evidence-based and must be backed by a strong and united community of stakeholders and advocates in the business, professional, research, and education communities.

President's Message Continued

In November 2016, several members of the initial PA Mathematics Education Coalition attended an AMTE Affiliate Webinar where the North Carolina AMTE Affiliate presented on their Advocacy work where they highlighted the importance of getting classroom teachers and parents involved in the advocacy work. Then, in February 2017, the PA Mathematics Education Coalition hosted a meeting at Messiah College with Ms. Beth Olanoff (Special Assistant to the Secretary) to discuss PA's state plan for implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In a follow-up letter, members of the PA Mathematics Coalition expressed the Coalition's interest in continued conversation and partnership with PDE in relation to mathematics educator preparation and evaluation.

That summer, August 2017, at the PCTM Conference, a strategic discussion was held with a consultant from Achieve (a non-profit education organization leading the efforts in college and career readiness), and the Secretary of Education, Pedro Rivera, was invited to be a featured speaker at the PCTM Conference. In addition, at the conference the PA Mathematics Education Coalition held a Letter Writing Campaign supporting the modification to Act 82 of 2012 that would eliminate tying student data directly to teacher accountability. Then, at the May 2018 PAMTE Symposium, Judd Pittman (Special consultant for the Secretary of Education for STEM) was invited to talk to the members at the conference.

In reflection, the group noted that it is harder to get a foot in the door than we first thought it should be and learned the PA department of education is operating per capita—one of the lowest staffed departments in the nation. Furthermore, the two other organizations PAMTE is trying to partner with are all volunteers.

Recently, there has been a revitalization of the PA Mathematics Education Coalition headed by Jodie Styers and Kate Remillard, and they have been working hard to schedule some events for this coming academic year. Please read about the goals for this academic year in this newsletter and stay tuned to PAMTE monthly updates for more information on events that will be scheduled throughout the year.

PAMTE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT	Cynthia Taylor <i>Millersville University</i>
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Debbie Gochenaur <i>Shippensburg University</i>
SECRETARY	Lynn Columba <i>Lehigh University</i>
TREASURER	James Preston <i>Slippery Rock University</i>
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Gina Foletta <i>Penn State University</i>
	Lara Dick <i>Bucknell University</i>
	Heather Ervin <i>Bloomsburg University</i>
MEMBERSHIP	Hartono Tjoe <i>Penn State Berks</i>
NEWSLETTER	Sheri Stayton <i>Penn College of Technology</i>
WEBMASTER	James Preston <i>Slippery Rock University</i>

PA Mathematics Education Coalition Announces 2019-2020 Priorities

The PA Mathematics Education Coalition is pleased to announce two priorities for the 2019-2020 academic year.

- Mathematics teacher recruitment and retention in Pennsylvania
- Preparing students for the future by developing equitable high school to college mathematics pathways in Pennsylvania

Both priorities have emerged from critical conversations engaged in by PAMTE members during recent annual symposiums. The coalition is currently working to widen its partnership network to include additional PA professional organizations with a vested interest in these issues. PAMTE members are encouraged to respond to an upcoming survey to aid with this effort and to stay tuned for programming and outreach opportunities throughout the year.

PAMTE's 13th Annual Symposium

Heather Ervin

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

The 13th Annual PAMTE Symposium was held May 15th and 16th, 2019 at Shippensburg University. Thank you to all who participated and helped to make the PAMTE conference a success! There were many attendees and knowledgeable speakers including Dr. Diane Briars (Mathematics Education Consultant) and Dr. Mark Wolfmeyer (Kutztown University).

Conference goers took part in two days of collaboration and networking in an effort to improve mathematics education at their respective schools and beyond. The Working Group Lunch session on Wednesday provided insight into standards for preparing mathematics teachers at the elementary and secondary levels, while the Thursday session brought to light some of the issues facing mathematics programs. Look for summary documents to be shared in the Members-Only section of PAMTE's website!

A good time was had by all at the Dinner at Appalachian Brewing Company. This event always provides an opportunity for everyone to catch up and enjoy the company of fellow mathematics enthusiasts.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again next Spring!



Above: Dr. Diane Briars, our Keynote Speaker, presents on *Opportunities for Systematic Improvement in K-16 Mathematics Teaching, Learning, Curriculum and Assessment*.



Above: Dr. Mark Wolfmeyer, our Plenary Speaker, presents on *Preparing Mathematics Teacher Candidates for Teaching with Equity*.



Above: PAMTE members Kate Remillard, Dave Kennedy, and Lynn Columba discuss mathematics program issues during a working lunch group.



Above: Dr. Lorraine Howard presents on *Girls' Math Identity and its relationship to participation in STEM education and careers*.

Thanks from STaR Fellows

Dear PAMTE Members,

I am a STaR fellow of the 2019 Cohort. Last week I attended the STaR summer institute in Park City, Utah. I really appreciate PAMTE's donation to the STaR program. Your sponsorship to STaR program this year made it possible for me to participate into this wonderful program. As an early-career faculty in mathematics education, I have so much to learn about research, teaching and service in order to be successful in my career. The STaR program not only provided me opportunities to interact with senior faculty members in mathematics education and learn their insights about research, teaching and service, but also provided a networking platform for me to know other early-career faculty from different institutions and learn from each other. The one-week summer institute really made us to know each other as a researcher, a mathematics teacher educator, and a person in general. I really feel that the STaR fellows developed into a community where we can collaborate with each other in research and teaching and support each other in our journey to gain tenure.

Again, I am thankful for PAMTE's support for my participation in the STaR program and its continuous effort in support for early-career faculty in mathematics education. As a new faculty in mathematics education at Penn State, I look forward to getting more involved in PAMTE.

Sincerely,

Xiangquan (James) Yao

Dear PAMTE Members,

The experience with the STaR program was incredible! Your sponsorship of STaR made this possible. I am sincerely grateful as I benefited in so many different ways. The main one being the network of colleagues and new friends the program helped facilitate. While at STaR, I collaborated with a small group of other math educators that teach elementary methods courses like myself. We were able to create and share assignments with one another. As we work on these assignments with our students we plan on coming together to talk about how things went and write an article about it with one another. This is exactly what I needed and hoped the STaR program would provide.

Again, thank you!
Valerie N Long

Welcome New PAMTE Members!

Faculty

- **Natalie Ayambem**, *West Chester Univ.*
- **Jamie Warren**, *West Chester Univ.*

Graduate Students

- **Matthew Black**, *Penn State Univ.*
- **Matthew Melville**, *Univ. of Delaware*

Congratulations Melissa Boston!

Candidates for the 2019 NCTM election for new Board members were just announced, and PAMTE member Melissa Boston (Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA) is one of six individuals running for Director, At-Large. Three will be elected. See: <https://www.nctm.org/election/>. This year's election will open September 30th. Congratulations Melissa on the nomination to run for this position!

Save the Date!

14th Annual PAMTE Symposium



May 13-14, 2020
Shippensburg University

- ❖ **Start Thinking About Proposals!** Sessions are 30 or 50 minutes in length; presentation or roundtable.
- ❖ **Special Interest Groups Welcome!** At our 14th Annual Symposium we would like to allow time for Special Interest Groups to meet. If you have an idea for a group and/or would like to lead a group, please let the Program Committee know!

Heather Ervin hervin@bloomu.edu

Updates from the PCTM Meeting

- **Pre-service Teacher Day locations for 2019**
 - **West:** Penn State Behrend. Contact Patrick Kelly at pkelly@psu.edu. Register online at <http://bit.ly/PSTDayWest2019>. Penn State Behrend plans to send out additional information about the lesson sharing to its western PA contacts soon. See official flyer on the next page.
 - **East:** West Chester University. Contact Brian Bowen at BBowen@wcupa.edu
- **Professional Development Day.** Saturday, September 28 at PaTTAN. Contact Marian Avery at mavery077@gmail.com
- **ATMOPAV Fall Conference:** November 9, 2019; Springdale Chestnut Hill Academy.
- **2020 PCTM Annual Conference with PaTTAN:** July 22-24, 2020; Harrisburg, PA



Western PA

PRE-SERVICE TEACHER DAY

OCTOBER 19TH, 2019

9:30-3:30 at Penn State Behrend

8:30-9:30 registration and continental breakfast

Mathematics Teaching & Learning Conference

Pre-Service Teacher Day, presented by PCTM and PAMTE and hosted by Penn State Behrend's Mathematics Education Department, aims to provide learning opportunities for elementary, middle grades, and secondary pre-service teachers in a professional conference setting.

Throughout the day, attendees will select from multiple sessions related to mathematics instruction at all levels. Breakout sessions will feature presentations by education professionals and pre-service teachers.

Cost: \$10 registration . . . which includes:

- ◆ One-year membership to PCTM for students
- ◆ Continental breakfast and lunch
- ◆ Giveaway prizes

Generously sponsored by



Exchange teaching ideas, experiences, and practices!

Choose to participate in a lesson-sharing opportunity!

Network with other pre-service teachers from across the state!

Kick start your professional mathematics teaching career!

Attend a keynote and breakout sessions geared toward your interests!

For more information, contact Patrick Kelly at pkelly@psu.edu or 814.898.6308

Register online by October 7th:



<http://bit.ly/PSTDayWest2019>

Award-Winning Children's Books with a Mathematical Message

Rose Mary Zbiek

Penn State University

The Math Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) in Berkeley gives annual awards to children's books that represent mathematics well in the interest of inspiring a love of mathematics for children of all ages. Selections are made by a committee of librarians, teachers, mathematicians, early childhood experts, and others. The annual awards target one book at each of various age levels (2-4, 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, and 14-18) that correspond to grade levels (PreK, K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12). A complete list of award-winning books and runner-up selections for 2015 through 2019 can be found online:

<http://www.mathicalbooks.org/portfolio/books/>.

Among other things, the titles make great gifts for the teachers and schools who do so much for our students and they are welcome resources to share with our colleagues in literacy education. Happy mathematical reading!

CONFERENCE DATES

Sept. 25-27 2019	NCTM Regional Conference <i>Boston, MA</i>
Oct. 5 2019	Careers in Mathematics Conference <i>Kutztown Univeristy</i>
Oct. 19 2019	3rd Annual Preservice Teacher Day <i>West Chester Univ./Penn State Behrend</i>
Nov. 7-9 2019	SSMA Annual Meeting <i>Salt Lake City, UT</i>

CONFERENCE DATES CONTINUED

Nov. 9 2019	ATMOPAV Fall Conference <i>Springdale Chestnut Hill Academy</i>
Nov. 9 2019	EPaDel Fall Section Meeting <i>DeSales University</i>
Nov. 14-17 2019	PMENA Annual Meeting <i>Saint Louis, MO</i>
Jan. 15-18 2020	Joint Mathematics Meeting <i>Denver, CO</i>
Feb. 6-8 2020	AMTE Annual Conference <i>Phoenix, AZ</i>
Mar. 13-15 2020	T³ International Conference <i>Dallas, TX</i>
Mar. 30-Apr. 1 2020	NCSM Annual Meeting <i>Chicago, IL</i>
Apr. 1-4 2020	NCTM Annual Meeting <i>Chicago, IL</i>
Apr. 3-4 2020	Allegheny Mtn. Section of the MAA <i>Grove City College</i>
Apr. 17-21 2020	AERA Annual Meeting <i>San Francisco, CA</i>
May 13-14 2020	14th Annual PAMTE Symposium <i>Shippensburg, PA</i>
July 22-24 2019	PCTM Annual Conference <i>Harrisburg, PA</i>

PAMTE is now on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PAmatheduc/>

Visit the PAMTE website at

www.pamte.org