



Special Interest Articles:

- President's Corner 1
- Public Education Department News 2
- Conference Registration Form 3
- New Membership Application 3
- Math Websites 4

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New Mexico Council of Teachers of Mathematics
<http://education.nmsu.edu/nmctm>

President's Corner

I would like to thank everyone who attended or made a presentation at the annual joint conference of NMSTA and NMCTM in Las Cruces in December. The conference included a variety of interesting presentations and exciting events. I hope that you found the conference professionally enriching and had opportunities to share with your colleagues back at your school and district what you learned at the conference.

I encourage you to start planning now to attend and even present at our fall 2004 conference to begin the afternoon of Thursday, November 11 and continue through Friday, November 12 in Albuquerque at the Holiday Inn Mountain View located at Menaul & University (just northeast of the Big I). Like the fall 2003 conference, teachers, mathematics educators, educational leaders, and exhibitors from across the state and nation are being invited to attend and present at the 2004 conference. Dr. Rick Scott from New Mexico State University has agreed to be our keynote speaker. He will reflect on his career in mathematics education in New Mexico

that has spanned over many productive years. Please consider contributing to mathematics education in our state by sharing your expertise at the 2004 fall conference. The presenter's form for the conference can be found in this newsletter.

Also in this newsletter is an update on the Public Education Department's activities in mathematics education written by Claudia Ahlstrom. There is a lot going on right now with the passing of House Bill 212 and the establishment of new high school graduation requirements in mathematics. I would also like to encourage you to contact Claudia cahlstrom@ped.state.nm.us to serve on one of the committees in mathematics education that she is establishing.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful spring and a restful summer. Please continue to encourage your colleagues and friends to join NMCTM. A membership form for our rapidly growing organization can also be found in this newsletter. New members of NMCTM are automatically added to our listserv. The listserv is proving an effective way for

allowing all of us to stay in contact with other mathematics teachers throughout the state and be informed about what is going on in mathematics education in New Mexico.

Respectfully Yours,

Dr. Rick Kitchen, President



Cindy Chapman, keynote speaker, and Rick at the December 2003 Conference, *Schools Without Borders: Integrating Math, Science, & Literacy*

Public Education Department News

I want to congratulate all of you for the progress that has been made in New Mexico mathematics education in the past year. Developing our students' abilities to problem solve, reason and communicate mathematically is the heart of mathematics education. I think we have made progress in better understanding how to develop those abilities in our students.

Expectations

The best way to get math education moving is by raising our expectations for our students and for ourselves.

At this very moment here in New Mexico, there are many discussions revolving around the mathematics high school graduation requirements. House Bill 212 states that students must successfully complete at least 23 units aligned to the state academic content and performance standards. Three of those 23 units must be mathematics; at least one of those units must be equivalent to algebra I level or higher. The last clause does muddy the waters for exact clarity of intent. However, in the spirit of raising expectations for all of our students, the intent of this high school graduation requirement is to expect each graduate to have taken at least three units of mathematics aligned to the New Mexico 9-12 high school mathematics standards. Therefore, with all three units aligned to the NM standards, Algebra I is the threshold course and the other units are higher. We

must advocate for high expectations for our students so that they are prepared for their lives and careers in the 21st century.

Teachers' expectations must also be raised. Education and teaching are cultural activities often accomplished in isolation. Teachers can learn from one another. Opportunities for professional collaboration enhance the flexibility and adaptability of teachers to meet the challenges of raising expectation for all students. A great example of professional collaboration is Lesson Study. An excellent article on collaboration entitled "The Importance of Professional Community" can be found in the November 2003 issue of ENC Focus Review. We must do all we can to promote professional collaboration within our mathematics community.

Accomplishments

The founding of the New Mexico Math Leadership Network was a major accomplishment. Fifty-seven math educators from twenty-eight districts came together in beautiful Ruidoso to discuss student understanding of mathematics. This was achieved by studying student responses to scaffolded assessment tasks in a train the trainer setting. You, Math Leaders, have taken it from there. In October, Chris Carter, Kathy Price, Mary Maxwell, Leslie Notah and Bill Schrandt presented at the Four Corners NCTM conference at San Juan

Community College. In December, Cherie Love, Chris Carter, Colette Martinez, Paula Maxmin, Kathy Price, Cathy Stanke, Cheryl Coyle and Mary Maxwell presented at the Las Cruces NMSTA/NMCTM state conference for mathematics and science teachers. Not only was it exciting that even more teachers now had the opportunity to use and learn about the scaffolded assessment tasks through the presentations of these teachers but the New Mexico Math Leadership Network was enabling teachers from all over the state to meet and collaborate.

Upcoming and Ongoing

A very exciting upcoming event will be the announcement of the awards for the Math & Science Partnership Program federal grants. This grant money has been targeted to support improved student achievement in mathematics by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of middle grade mathematics teachers. A component of each grant will be summer institutes for teachers followed by ongoing contact and courses throughout the academic year.

New Mexico assessments continue to be developed. At each step of the development of these assessments, teacher committees evaluate the items and the data on student achievement. I encourage you to volunteer for these teacher committees. Be a part of the process!

A three year Mathematics State Leadership Plan is being developed to help guide and measure the success of the implementation of the mathematics standards, new



Please visit the web site at <http://sde.state.nm.us/cilt>.

assessments and higher student expectations. Members of the Math Leaders had input in this plan at the SEDL Spring Forum on March 11. If you are interested in this plan or contributing to the plan, please contact me.

If you have any questions or you want to volunteer for the assessment committees, please contact me. As you may know, the state is now called the Public Education Department and our email addresses have changed effective May 1st. My new email address is: cahlstrom@ped.state.nm.us

I hope to hear from you!

Claudia

**Making Connections in Math, Science, and Environmental Education
 NMSTA/NMCTM State Conference
 Request for Proposals
 November 11-12, 2004
 Proposals are due by October 1, 2004**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE

Presenters (Attach a separate sheet for additional presenters):

_____	_____	_____
Name	School/Organization	Email
_____	_____	_____
Name	School/Organization	Email

Mailing Address for lead presenter:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Street	City	Zip	Phone

Presentation

Duration (check one): 1 hour _____ 1.5 hours _____

Presentation Title: _____

Program Description:

Provide a brief (25 word) description of your session for the conference program.

Submit your proposal by October 1, 2004 by email to mwilliams205@comcast.net or by mail to Mary Williams, 4440 Jupiter St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

*We invite
 you to
 become a
 part of the
 NM
 mathematics
 community!*

New Mexico Council of Teachers of Mathematics Application Form*

Name: _____ **School:** _____

Address: _____ **Position:** _____
 (i.e., 3rd grade teacher)

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____ **E-Mail Address:** _____

Make checks payable to the New Mexico Council for Teachers of Mathematics.

**or download our membership form from our website at <http://education.nmsu.edu/nmctm>*

Mail in your membership dues (only \$10) to Pam Abreu, 714 Myrtle Avenue, Las Vegas, NM 87701,

For more information contact Pam Abreu by email: abreupam@hotmail.com or by fax at (505) 425-2672.

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**Thank you to
everyone who
provided
information for
this newsletter!**

We're on the Web!

See us at:
<http://education.nmsu.edu/nmctm>

Comments, announcements,
and interesting news about
mathematics education
should be sent to Sheila Hills
at sshills@nmsu.edu
for posting.

Mathematics Education Websites

NMCTM website:
<http://education.nmsu.edu/nmctm>
Comments, announcements,
and interesting news about
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sshills@nmsu.edu for posting.

Teach New Mexico website
provides current information
on teaching in New Mexico -
3-tiered Licensure, federal
requirements for being a
highly qualified teacher and
educational assistance, and
professional licensure
information.
<http://teachnm.org>

Join NMCTM and become a part of the NM Math Community!

The New Mexico Council of
Teachers of Mathematics is a
professional organization
designed to improve
mathematics education in the
Land of Enchantment. The
membership includes
teachers, parents,
administrators, college
instructors, and anyone
interested in math education.
The purpose of our New
Mexico Affiliate of the
National Council of
Teachers of Mathematics is

NCTM website:
<http://nctm.org> includes the
NCTM Webnews,
Illuminations, and many
additional resources to
support mathematics
education. The NCTM
website also has information
about the annual conference
to be held in Anaheim,
California on April 2005.

**TODOS: Mathematics for
All** – a new organization
which advocates for an
equitable and high-quality
mathematics education for
all students by advancing
professional growth and
equity awareness of
educators.
<http://www.todos-math.org>

to develop and build our
capacity to teach and learn
mathematics and to address
issues in mathematics.

To impact the quality of
mathematics education in
our beautiful state, we need
the help and support of our
members. You can help by
recruiting a colleague to join
NMCTM (membership form
is attached to this
newsletter), mail in your
membership dues (only \$10)

State Department website:
<http://sde.state.nm.us/cilt>
will keep you informed and
up-to-date about
assessments, grants,
workshops, and math
resources. Math Consultant
contact: Claudia Ahlstrom,
ahlstrom@ped.state.nm.us

Visit **ENC Digital Dozen**
monthly for sites chosen
appropriate for k-12
mathematics and science
teachers, students, and
classrooms.
<http://www.enc.org/>

to:
Pam Abreu, 714 Myrtle
Avenue, Las Vegas, NM
87701.

If you've moved, please fill
out the membership form in
this newsletter with your new
contact information and mail
it to Pam Abreu with your
\$10 dues.

Let's make our wonderfully
rich and diverse state a model
in mathematics education!



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LABEL