

CBMS Hosts Forum on Content-Based Professional Development for Teachers of Mathematics

The Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences (CBMS) hosted its third National Forum in Reston VA on October 10-12. Past-President Nora Ramirez, Secretary Anita Bright, Janet Pittock and Janie Zimmer represented TODOS at this Forum. Focusing on *Content-Based Professional Development for Teachers of Mathematics*, the meeting looked at the Common Core State Standards and addressed appropriate steps for the mathematics community to consider as in order to help promote the goals of greater achievement for all students that are envisioned in the Standards. Throughout the conference there was a strong message that more and better professional development for teachers is necessary in order to make the Common Core Standards become a reality in all endorsing states.

The plenary sessions in the forum provided participants with views of various high-quality content-based professional development models. The breakout working sessions engaged the participants in small interactive groups working toward the goal of increasing the number of college and university mathematics departments who partner with state departments and local school districts to provide professional development to teachers. The facts that the Common Core Standards have been well received by both the mathematics community and by school policy groups, and that they have been widely adopted by the states, provide an opportunity for the mathematics community to work toward common goals. Common standards should make scaling up easier in that there will be commonality across states in what teachers at a certain level need to know. This forum was an important step in bringing the community together to begin work on this ambitious goal.

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