

Iris Carl Grant Recipient 2017
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The three days that made up the NCSM annual conference of #NCSM17, as I frequently tweeted, was the most power educational conference that I have attended. I am forever grateful to the committee lead by Denise Brady and NCSM President Dr. John Staley for this opportunity. I would like to detail the sessions and events that I attended as well as relationships formed at the conference.

Knocking Down Barriers with Technology by Eli Luberoff. Honest confession, I had not heard of Eli prior to the conferences. Sure, I knew a little bit about Desmos, but I always associated Dan Meyer with the company not Eli Luberoff. He was beyond impressive as he detailed his beliefs and how Desmos is making technology accessible and free to everyone, including the blind.

The Mindset Revolution by Jo Boaler. I have watched videos of Dr. Boaler speak but this was my first time learning in person so I made sure to have front row seats. She detailed all of the great work that she is doing through YouCubed and all the free resources for teachers to use to support a growth mindset.

Surviving the Journey by John Staley. Dr. Staley really focused on leadership and detailed for everyone the important components of being a strong leader in math education. He gave a call to action to go back and focus on a few things with our leadership teams to help improve math learning and equity for all.

How to Think Brilliantly and Creatively in Mathematics by James Tanton. After seeing Dr. Tanton present *Exploding Dots* last year, I was unsure how he would be able to top that work, but he did. Focusing on mathematical content, he was able to share five big ideas for all teachers and leaders of mathematics to consider making math joyful and decluttered.

In addition to the amazing sessions, the grant also included numerous events that included luncheons, evening cocktails, and networking opportunities. It was great to learn about Iris Carl and what she meant to math leadership and also hear about the amazing Timothy Kanold, the 2017 Ross Taylor / Glenn Gilbert National Leadership Awardee. A truly remarkable career and inspiration to everyone.

I run a math education podcast through my website www.mathwithmatthew.com and was able to spend some time and interview four superstars in math education for my podcast: Eli Luberoff, James Tanton, Sunil Singh, and Hilary Kreisberg. It was not easy bringing all the equipment with me to San Antonio, but was worth it for the great recorded conversations that were had.

Also, I was able to host a free cocktail event about the Global Math Project at a local restaurant. I am an ambassador for the project and proud supporter so it was a great opportunity to meet and recruit other ambassadors all around the country and world.

I was able to see some old friends that I have made in person and on social media and also make some new friendships within the Math Ed Leadership community.

This was my first opportunity to attend NCSM Annual, but it will not be my last. I came home exhausted but rejuvenated within my profession. I hope to be able to attend every year after having such an amazing experience. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.