

## Iris Carl Thank you

The Iris Carl grant was such a wonderful gift for me! I came back to my classroom, school and my district just walking on clouds! I was so renewed, excited and hopeful for the future of mathematics education I could hardly stop talking about NCSM to friends and colleagues! To have the opportunity to sit across the table from the mathematics leaders who have always been my mentors and idols, but whom I had never met was awe-inspiring. Imagine a lone classroom teacher in a district full of staff who hadn't heard of the "new" standards before she took to her soap box, walking into a sea of mathematics leaders who have been working, studying and speaking about Common Core State Standards for over two years. That was me. It was like I found my math home! My daughter calls me "Math Nerd" and my colleagues tease me about my constant talk about CCSS, but I have not been able to have serious conversations about what my own math instruction should look like nor how to support my colleagues as they transition to using the new standards with anyone who has any experience in Common Core. In my district I am the one staff member who is considered the "expert on CCSS" and I plug away teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade math and trying to stir up discussions about the new standards. I came to Philadelphia with hundreds of leaders as passionate as myself (some even more) about the Common Core State Standards.

As I sat in session frantically taking notes, not to miss a bit of information, ideas about what needed to happen in my small district back in California began to form almost as fast as I could type. Between sessions I composed e-mails to our director of curriculum, my principal, colleagues and superintendent. As I listened to the thoughts, ideas and ponderings of leaders in mathematics education, I decided that I really needed to start at the top. I wrote the superintendent and told her that I wanted to do a training for all of the principals, vice-principals and academic coordinators in our district. I recently finalized the plans for that training. To start the new school year, I (the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) will meet with our K-12 administrators to help them understand the

fundamental shifts that need to take place in mathematics instruction in our district and why those shifts are so crucial. I will ask them to commit to supporting this changes and to reflect on what they need to do to help facilitate movement towards this new direction in our district. I am terrified and excited about this opportunity and challenge that I never would have considered without the amazing gift of receiving the Iris Carl grant and being able to attend the NCSM conference this April. Thank you!