

42nd NCSM Annual Conference, San Diego, California
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I thoroughly enjoyed the NCSM Annual Conference. I sincerely appreciate receiving the Iris Carl Travel Grant so I was able to attend and glean so much valuable information on mathematics leadership.

There were so many strands and sections to choose from that I decided to focus on Curriculum Leadership, Teaching and Learning Leadership, Assessment Leadership, and Developing Teachers.

I attended Mike Schmoker's keynote address and learned that mathematics teachers must analyze what we teach and how we teach it. We must also learn how to assess student learning using formative and summative assessments. The most effective way to provide teachers with the professional development to do these three things is by creating a professional learning community where we plan lessons, teach the lessons, assess the impact of the lessons, and adjust the instruction.

David Webb provided excellent information on the "Assessment Pyramid" and how to use it as a tool to get students to higher levels of thinking. Tim Kanold gave a fabulous presentation on leadership utilizing the PRIME axioms. He said having a vision and strategy are key to effective implementation for leaders. Teamwork and communication require working with the 3 C's: character, competence and chemistry. Assessment and evaluation require a leader who will keep the vision on course and confront anyone who is drifting from that vision. His closing question was "What life are you waiting for?"

I also attended sections on professional learning communities, reasoning and sense making, student growth data, and technology.

As I reflect on the conference I realize how important having a vision is for effective implementation of any math initiative. The leader must assist in making the vision a living entity. All decisions should be made according to the vision. Goals and strategies development then monitored and measured. Get the right people on board!

Thank you, Iris Carl, for this amazing opportunity!