

Iris Carl Awardee Report on my NCSM Experience

I was so excited about being able to go to NCSM for my first time, and the NCSM conference was everything that I had hoped it to be. I had the opportunity to listen to and learn from national leaders in mathematics, I learned about new products that will help me meet needs in my district, and I had the opportunity to network with colleagues from around the nation and spend extended time with mathematics leaders from my own state as well.

I really enjoyed the workshops that I attended. Since the presenters had similar roles to mine, I found their presentations to be very applicable to address issues that I face in my district. I went to a workshop that demonstrated the Lenses on Learning Secondary School professional modules. I plan on purchasing it to use with my secondary staff when it becomes available.

I attended many workshops that focus on leadership within mathematics. From those workshops, I plan on changing my walk-through supervision reports for next year, and to visit classrooms more often and informally. I will also be sharing knowledge gained from the NCSM conference in the area of leadership with participants in a week-long academy this summer titled “Take the Next Step: Improve (or Develop) Your Math Leadership Skills”.

Along with leadership skills, I also got some practical help by attending some of the vendor sessions. I ordered samples and am evaluating two different remediation programs for math that I learned about at the conference, and I signed up to pilot a brand-new HS curriculum called CME for next year! I can hardly wait to use something more standards-based.

As I reflected on my experiences this year, I observed some common themes.

1. Use data, data, data
2. Create language rich classroom
3. Foster professional learning communities
4. Focus staff development on student learning
5. Keep things equitable-we need to provide opportunities for all students to achieve high levels of mathematical competency

Along with the things listed above, I really enjoyed my time at the NCSM conference. I enjoyed meeting and talking with mathematics colleagues from around the nation, and I had the opportunity to talk to mathematics leaders from my state for an extended period of time. The NCSM conference has renewed my passion to continue leading the mathematics reform movement that NCTM started so long ago. I now recognize the opportunities that the NCSM conference brings, and I will be lobbying to get to the NCSM conference as much as possible with the limited resources that I have in our district. I am grateful that I had this opportunity for some outstanding professional development in mathematics.

I have included receipts and a summary of my expenses. Please send my reimbursement to me at the address below. Thanks so much for supporting me through the Iris Carl Award.

Sincerely,
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