

## **Council of Presidential Awardees in Mathematics (an organization of recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching)**

CPAM became an affiliate in 2014. The questions below were answered by David Masunaga, CPAM President, for Carol Matsumoto, NCSM Affiliates Group Coordinator.

### **What is the purpose of your organization?**

The mission of the Council of Presidential Awardees in Mathematics (CPAM) is to utilize the uniqueness and talents of its membership to influence the processes of teaching mathematics in order to promote and provide appropriate mathematical experiences for students.

### **What are your successes?**

Since 1984 our quarterly newsletter provides members with information on upcoming events, highlights of professional activities, and minutes of the Board of Directors meetings while the CPAM Listserv is an electronic means to stay in touch through e-mail. This service is provided through volunteers and is hosted by the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (NCREL).

The CPAM Leadership Seminar, an afternoon-long workshop preceding the NCTM Annual Meeting, was established in 2005 with a grant from Lucent Technologies and is also funded in part by Texas Instruments. This popular series of prominent speakers on current mathematics education issues has featured Jim Rubillo, Peg Smith, Steve Leinwand, Cathy Seeley, Bill McCallum, Jo Boaler, Dan Meyer and Deborah Ball.

### **What are your challenges?**

Sustained membership has been a challenge in the digital age in an organization with both seasoned and younger generations of mathematics educators. Even though some teachers may view professional organizations as passé, more than ever organizations like CPAM exist to provide a network among its membership for the exchange of ideas, issues and strategies, to provide professional development opportunities for its members, to develop professional relationships with various educational groups, to encourage those with excellent potential to enter mathematics teaching, to promote the professional development of mathematics teachers and to encourage the retention of effective mathematics teachers.

### **What events do you host?**

During the Annual NCTM Meetings, past Presidential Awardees are hosted at a reception sponsored by Pearson, and CPAM members convene for a breakfast and annual business meeting. In addition there are receptions at the NCTM Regional Conferences hosted by CPAM and its local members.

### **What event/accomplishment as an organization are you most proud of and why?**

CPAM has established the Denise I. Griffiths Scholarship Fund for high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in mathematics and who intend to pursue a course of study to prepare to teach mathematics at the elementary or secondary school level. By establishing this scholarship program, CPAM demonstrates its commitment to nurturing the next generation of excellent mathematics teachers. Since 1989 29 scholarships totalling \$119,000 have been awarded.

### **Other information**

CPAM was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1985 and had its first official meeting in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the NCTM Annual Meeting in April 1986. CPAM became an affiliate of NCTM during that meeting.

In the early years of the Presidential Awards program, the only opportunity for awardees to get together was the breakfast sponsored each year by Silver Burdett. From Silver Burdett's first breakfast in April 1984 came CPAM's newsletter, logo and ultimately CPAM's existence. Over the years, other publishing companies began sponsoring social activities which have provided awardees with opportunities to get together to renew old friendships, to begin new friendships, and to share teaching ideas. With a membership from such a vast geographic area, the opportunities for awardees to gather at the NCTM Annual Meeting and at many of the NCTM regional meetings are greatly appreciated.

Other CPAM initiatives include two very successful NSF grants, *Teachers Teaching Teachers* and *Leadership Development and Enabling Change*. These summer institutes were conducted in conjunction with the University of Northern Iowa. In 1998, CPAM joined with the Math Forum to answer questions submitted to the Teacher2Teacher service from all over the world. This collaborative venture provided both a service to the community by enhancing mathematics education and an opportunity for professional development for the CPAM participants.

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