

45th Annual NCSM Conference, Denver, CO.  
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Attending the 45th NCSM Annual Conference - Reaching the Peak of Leadership: Guiding Teaching to Support Student Learning, was the impetus I absolutely needed to jump start my new career as mathematics coach. After many years of reading and learning about mathematics on my own, it was a feeling of being "home" among so many mathematicians at so many levels! I was able to learn and converse with many of the math "rock stars" whose names I've only read in books and articles prior to attending this conference.

Since I left my third grade classroom in December to become our first elementary math coach, it has been a whirlwind of learning. One of my new roles is to help our classroom teachers understand the Common Core State Standards, including the Practice Standards and the Progressions document. There is a wealth of information to learn, understand, and share. The sessions at the NCSM Conference added a great deal to my understanding of that Common Core and how to help our teachers teach for mathematical understanding. James Burnett, Greg Tang, and Cathy Seeley are just a few of the outstanding mathematicians that I was fortunate enough to learn from during this amazing conference!

There was such a variety of sessions offered at the NCSM Conference. I learned about becoming a courageous coach from Lucy West and how to use the Curriculum Analysis Tool more effectively from TEAM-Math/EARIC Curriculum Analysis Project and just in time as our District selects our new text, using this tool to guide us in just a few weeks. I learned about what one urban school district uses for their Response to Intervention Tier 2 system once students have been identified. This session gave me a multitude of ideas to ponder as our district builds an RTI intervention system as well.

Although the weather was not cooperative during our stay in Denver (snow, rain and more snow!) it could not take away from the fantastic experience I enjoyed at the NCSM Conference. I am extremely thankful for the Iris Carl Travel Grant, as I am fairly certain I would not have attended this conference without the help from this grant. My mission now is to somehow secure funds to attend next year in New Orleans!