

WISCONSIN  
MATHEMATICS  
COUNCIL, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

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## President's Message



### Fall Back and Reflect Forward

At this time of the school year, we are often in a fast forward mode as the first quarter of the school year ends and another begins. If you are like me, this time of the year finds you rushing from one class to another, often racing to “get through” the material. So in this fall fashion, I found myself running late from a meeting to one of my math classes, when I stopped before I entered the classroom door. Why did I stop? Well, I stopped because I heard one of my students exclaim, “Wow, I can’t believe how much I learned last week about multiplying and dividing fractions. I thought all we had to do is apply a rule, but now I know why those rules work!”

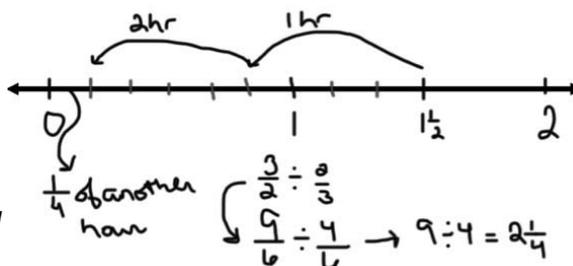
So in the spirit of Daylight Savings Time, I decided to fall back and reflect on my last two weeks with respect to student learning. I wanted to do this so I could see the bigger picture that learning is about my students, not about how much material I covered in those two weeks. So, in my rush, here is the student learning that I missed.

In 3rd grade, two students were asked what is 63 divided by 7. One student found her answer by counting up by 7s. While another student surprised himself by realizing that 7 groups of 10 was 70 as he shouted, “All I have to do is take away one of those groups of 7 and I get 9 groups. But wait, yes that should work. Can we do another to find out?”

In my algebra class, a student was excited to make a mistake on his recent quick check because he now knows why he must reverse the inequality when you divide by a negative number. He realized this when I asked him to solve  $-2x > 4$  in a different way (originally he divided by  $-2$  and incorrectly wrote  $x > -2$ ). He came up right after class and said, “I added  $2x$  to both sides and subtracted  $4$  to both sides and got  $-4 > 2x$  and then  $-2 > x$ .” He then reflected, “this would be the same as if you divided  $-2x > 4$  both sides of the inequality by  $-2$  and flipped the sign, now that is cool.”

In working with future elementary teachers, we were discussing the following Illustrative Mathematics Project problem:

*You are stuck in a big traffic jam on the freeway and you are wondering how long it will take to get to the next exit, which is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles away. You are timing your progress and find that you can travel  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a mile in one hour. If you continue to make progress at this rate, how long will it be until you reach the exit? Solve the problem with a diagram and explain your answer.*



Through this task, my students “rediscovered” the common denominator method of dividing fractions by using the following number line. One student commented, “This is so much easier

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Jennifer Paye-Weber

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than that invert and multiply way, and this one makes a lot more sense using repeated subtraction.”

WHEW! By reflecting on my student learning over the last two weeks, I realized that I need to fall back more often and reflect on how and what my students really learned as opposed to what content was covered. By taking this time to reflect, I am ready to move forward and tackle the 2nd quarter of the year. The moral to my newsletter story is...I hope you take a few minutes to fall back and reflect forward.

Sincerely,  
*Jenn Kosiak, WMC President*

## November: Building a Mathematics Community: 50 Years and Counting

Ahhh... the Golden Anniversary. 50 years! Can you believe that May 2nd – 4th, 2018 marks the 50th Wisconsin Mathematics Council’s Annual Conference at Green Lake? At this exciting annual event you will be able to collaborate with over 1,500 mathematics teachers, coaches, administrators, and pre-service educators as you participate in mathematical sessions focused on high leverage teaching and learning practices. This year’s conference, Building a Mathematics Community: 50 Years and Counting, will certainly provide you with the instructional tools designed to actively engage students as they develop a robust mathematical understanding.

When something as historical as this Golden Jubilee occurs, all the bells and whistles come out! The conference programming committee has invited several NCTM presidents and WMC presidents to join us for this milestone!

1. **Matt Larson**, NCTM President 2016 – 2018. As President, Larson speaks frequently to educational audiences, and is co-author of *Balancing the Equation: A Guide to School Mathematics for Educators and Parents*. Larson was heavily invested in the development of *Principles to Action: Ensuring Mathematical Success for All* as one of the authors. Previously, Larson was the K–12 curriculum specialist for mathematics in Lincoln (Nebraska) Public Schools for more than 20 years.
2. **Robert Q. Berry**, NCTM President 2018 – 2020. Berry will take over as NCTM President in April 2018, making the WMC Annual Conference one of his first state-wide visits as president. Berry brings a strong sense of equity and fairness, rooted in his understanding of the mathematical experiences of students of color and the belief that all students deserve access to learning environments and resources that support their engagement with mathematics. Berry’s focus on equity and access has brought him to Wisconsin before as a speaker at the Mathematical Proficiency for All Students conference. Let’s welcome Berry back!
3. **Johnny Lott**, NCTM President 2002 – 2004. Lott was project manager for the Figure This! program and editor for the high school books of NCTM’s Navigations series. Lott vocalized his support of Quantitative Literacy, arguing that an intelligent citizen would never say, “I can’t read!” and therefore should never say, “I can’t do math!”. We’re excited to hear what Lott might say next.

So much presidential aura about the conference. We certainly hope you save the date for this golden 50th WMC Annual Conference!

*Maggie McHugh, Annual Conference Chair*

### » WE NEED YOUR HISTORICAL HELP!

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the WMC Annual Conference, please send photos of previous conferences (with a year) to Maggie McHugh at [mmchugh@lacrossesd.org](mailto:mmchugh@lacrossesd.org). We hope to highlight the transformations that have occurred over 50 years of mathematics education!

## NCTM News

### Explore the New MY.NCTM.ORG

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) is proud to announce a new online community space just for mathematics educators. Find, connect, and collaborate with other members. Share ideas, discuss challenges, post questions, find resources, and more! Check it out at [my.nctm.org](http://my.nctm.org). Not a member? Use code BDE20 at checkout to save \$20 off a full membership, \$10 off an e-membership, and \$5 off a student membership.

### Participate in Online NCTM Events

NCTM offers live online events to expand learning and discussion on a variety of topics. Plan to join an upcoming Twitter chat or webinar and interact with peers online. Unable to make it to a NCTM professional learning event? Learn from your colleagues virtually by following along on Twitter. Regular webinars offer author talks based on new or upcoming NCTM publications, President's chats with NCTM President Matt Larson, and a special ongoing focus on access and equity. Past chats and webinar recordings are also conveniently available to access anytime. Use the following link to explore all of NCTM's online offerings: [www.nctm.org/onlineevents](http://www.nctm.org/onlineevents)

### Check Out the Latest NCTM Books

Stay up-to-date with the latest books from NCTM. Discover all the NCTM peer-reviewed publications, designed for administrators, principals, teachers, math coaches, teacher educators, and more. Use the following link to view NCTM's online catalog: [www.nctm.org/catalog1718](http://www.nctm.org/catalog1718)

## WMC Fall Board Meeting Update

### Hard Working Committees are Moving WMC Initiatives Forward!

It was a beautiful day in Stevens Point, WI and the WMC Fall Board Members were settled in for a full day of work. As each committee reported feedback regarding current work or shared upcoming plans it was clear that WMC was working hard to provide members cutting edge professional development opportunities.

Another successful **Mathematics Proficiency for Every Student (MPES) Conference!** Wendy Meyer and

Jennifer Lawler were thrilled to share that over 200 people attended the 2-day event at Chula Vista. Feedback shared indicated participants walked away from the conference with a deeper understanding of equity through the lens of mathematics. Keynote speaker, **Lee Stiff** as well as small breakout sessions pushed participants to consider the meaning of equitable instructional practices and the impact for our students. Keynote speaker **Cheryl Tobey** kept audience members engaged in purposeful conversations about the importance of integrating formative assessment practices into classroom practice. Her practical suggestions provided audience members the opportunity to practice and articulate how to bring these ideas back to each district. The conference location proved to be a great destination for all participants.

A big congratulations to Wendy and Jennifer for their hard work organizing the conference! WMC Board also extends a sincere thank you to all of the breakout speakers who provided additional sessions for participants. Your leadership is appreciated both in your district and within the state!

**#Wismath** has a small but mighty group of chatters! Steve Wyburny hosted a chat about his book *The Writing on the Classroom Wall*. Ten of the books were given away as prizes. Check out his blog, Splat! It's full of lessons for all ages. Add upcoming twitter chats to your calendar and join the fun!

- » 11/7, Mike Steele from UW-Milwaukee: Discourse in the Secondary Classroom
- » 11/21, John Stevens: Chef and Table Talk Math

### WMC is looking for pictures from previous WMC Annual Conferences

Mark your calendar for May 3 - 5! The 50th Anniversary of WMC will be celebrated this May at the Annual Conference. If you have pictures and would be willing to share them, please contact Maggie McHugh. She is looking to make a wonderful collage of photos to help with the celebration. WMC is also working with the Green Lake Conference Center to update the capacity of the location and provide participants with a great learning experience. It should be a wonderful time for all.

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### **WMC and WMEF A Growing Partnership**

WMC and WMEF are working together to provide teacher professional grants. Please check out the WMEF website [wmeffonline.org](http://wmeffonline.org) to apply for Fall grants deadline: December 1st. WMEF is currently looking for a company to help support the *WMC Conference Attendee Grant*. McGraw-Hill has decided to step away from supporting this grant. In previous years, this grant has provided teams of teachers a first time opportunity to attend the WMC Annual Conference in May. If you know of a company that would be interested, please contact WMC and we will be glad to follow-up!

- » We have a great new website, but we are in need of a website manager to help us oversee and update the page.
- » We are in need of volunteers who might be interested in helping with the Annual Conference in May.

As the day ended the board realized what an amazing group of leaders and teachers we have throughout the state and we are so proud to be able to represent you!

### **Interested in getting more involved in WMC?**

We welcome new members who are interested in getting more involved in WMC work. Here are some of the current areas we would love your help!

## **Updates from the Mathematics Institute of Wisconsin (formerly Brookhill Institute of Mathematics/WMSI)**

The Mathematics Institute of Wisconsin continues to cultivate new opportunities for Wisconsin teachers by expanding our offerings to include district specific professional development and school year content courses. With this new programming we have already reached over 1300 teachers and administrators this year.

Our new offerings include two workshops around formative assessment in both the elementary and secondary classroom titled Building Student Ownership of Mathematical Learning. These workshops will explore classroom-based formative assessment techniques and tools which can be used to plan, implement, and reflect on both teaching and student learning. For more information visit [www.mathinstitutewi.org/registration/](http://www.mathinstitutewi.org/registration/).

New in 2018 the Math Institute is excited to announce that we will be the first location in Wisconsin to offer Cognitive Coaching Seminars® Foundation Training. Cognitive Coaching is a form of mediation that can be applied to professional interactions in a variety of settings and situations with the intention of enhancing self-directed learning. This 8 day training will be led by Lead Mathematics Program Specialist Paige Richards and Math Institute National Advisor Dr. Maggie B. McGatha.

2018 Summer Institute registration is now live! Register by December 31, 2017 to receive our early bird registration rate of \$500.

### **Dates & Locations:**

- » Appleton - July 9-13, 2018
- » UW-La Crosse - July 9-13, 2018 mini
- » Mequon - July 16-20, 2018
- » Stoughton - July 30- August 3, 2018
- » Edgar - July 30- August 3, 2018 mini

## CS News

### WI CS Education Summit - Save Wed, May 2, 2018

Save this date for the 3rd Annual CS Education Summit. This exciting day will be held again at the Green Lake Conference Center. So far we have several invited keynotes; our confirmed keynote speakers will be:

- » Ruthe Farmer, nationally known advocate for diversity and inclusion in computer science, technology, engineering and STEM and currently a leader with csforall.org.
- » Dan Garcia, University of California-Berkeley and author of Beauty and Joy of Computing APCS Principles course.

### CS and IT Strand at WMC Annual Conference at Green Lake, Thursday and Friday, May 3 and 4, 2018.

Over the two days there will be at least twelve sessions oriented around CS and IT including robotics and physical computing. Stay tuned for more information on the conference.

**WI CS K-12 Standards.** We in Wisconsin now have an approved set of computer science student learning standards by grade bands. Please read and use them in your work. You can download them at the WI dpi site, <http://bit.ly/wi-cs-standards>.

**CSTA, the international Computer Science Teachers Association.** Please join the CSTA - it's easy and free. Just go to <http://csteachers.org> and click on the Membership tab at the top. Joining CSTA at the national site assures that you'll be a member of our CSTA WI-Dairyland Chapter. If you are a member of our WI CS Teachers group (WI-CSandIT-Teachers) you are not necessarily a member of the national CSTA. Be a member of both!

**Almost 500!** Yes, our WI CS Teachers group now has almost 500 members, nearly quadruple from a couple of years ago! If you'd like to join, contact Joe Kmoch at [joe@jkmoch.com](mailto:joe@jkmoch.com).

**ISTE 2018 Conference in Chicago – Save the Date.** The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is holding their annual conference in Chicago on Sunday, June 24, 2018 - Wednesday, June 27, 2018. On Saturday,

June 23, 2018 from noon – 5pm, the free CS Firehose will take place. In the past this has included three strands of 55 minute sessions plus a keynote. Also during ISTE 2018 there will be the three-hour CS Playground as well as several dozen CS sessions throughout the conference. Registration and housing opens December 1, 2017. <https://conference.iste.org/2018/>

**PD Opportunities.** Over the past several years we in WI have developed an awesome teacher community for Exploring Computer Science (ECS), AP Computer Science Principles, and now CS Discoveries. Join in the fun by enrolling in one or more PD opportunities noted below and making sure you're at least on the WI-CSandIT-Teachers Google group. Also stay tuned for some excitement from the CSTA WI-Dairyland Chapter.

**PUMPCS projects.** Join in the Summer PD opportunities at Marquette next summer, 2018. Opportunities will be available with Exploring Computer Science, AP CS Principles (Code.org version), CS Discoveries, Teaching Computer Science. Check in with <http://pumpcs.mu.edu> for more info throughout the year. We'll also be announcing specific opportunities using the WI CS teachers group noted above.

**Grades K-5 free one day PD.** Prof. Dennis Brylow from Marquette University (MU) continues to offer free monthly Saturday workshops at MU on the [code.org](http://code.org) K-5 CS Foundations modules. He will also travel to your school to do this one day workshop for free for a larger group of teachers there. Contact him at [brylow@mscs.mu.edu](mailto:brylow@mscs.mu.edu) for more info.

**Upcoming Saturday PD sessions.** For those of you already involved in earlier PUMPCS opportunities, the PD dates for the Saturday workshops for ECS, APCSP and CS Discoveries (the latter two code.org) will be November 11, January 20, 2018 and a 4th date to be determined. This information will also appear on the PUMPCS site.

**Become an AP Reader.** If you've been teaching either the APCS-A or the APCS-Principles, please consider applying to be a Reader. If selected, AP Readers meet for a week during early June of each year. This is one of the best professional development experiences you'll ever have. Not only do you work with a large number of others

*continued...*

grading student exams during the day, but you'll also spend evenings trading ideas and techniques as well as making new friends nationwide. Nearly everyone who has done this yearns to return the following June. You can apply at <http://bit.ly/APReaderSite>

### Alternative License Pathway

If you are interested in attaining a 405/1405 Computer Science License, there are several approaches:

- 1 - Study for and take the Computer Science Praxis Test. The process with DPI is located at <http://bit.ly/cs-license-via-test>. Test prep materials are available <http://bit.ly/cs-testprep> and you can register for the test at <https://www.ets.org/praxis/register>
- 2 - The Milwaukee Teacher Education Center (MTEC) offers an approved alternative certification pathway. To find out more, contact <http://www.mteconline.org>

## Be a Leader in Wisconsin Mathematics

Are you a mathematics leader? Wisconsin Mathematics Leadership Council (WiMLC), a special interest group of WMC, welcomes district and school mathematics leaders to join us. WiMLC is an informal group of mathematics education leaders from throughout Wisconsin dedicated to ensuring high quality mathematics learning for all students. Our goal is to support effective leadership in mathematics through networking, professional learning, and advocacy. Our members include mathematics curriculum coordinators, mathematics specialists and coaches, teacher leaders, interventionists, curriculum directors, principals, CESA consultants, university teacher educators and many more who are taking on leadership roles in improving mathematics education in Wisconsin. We come together three times each year, including fall and winter meetings, as well as Wisconsin Mathematics Council Leadership Pre-Conference at Green Lake in May.

### Want to get involved? Here are two ways:

- » Join our Google Group to become part of ongoing discussions with Wisconsin's mathematics leaders focused on how we can best support mathematics teaching and learning, and receive information about upcoming WiMLC meetings, professional learning

opportunities, etc. Visit <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/wimlc> to request to join our group.

- » Attend our winter WiMLC meeting at one of 2 locations/dates. We offer 2 locations/dates options to reduce driving time and hopefully attract more leaders to join us. Online registration is available on WMC website ([www.wismath.org](http://www.wismath.org)). Registration of \$20 includes breakfast items, snacks, and lunch.

### Location

Monday, February 5, 2018 (9:00-2:30) at TBA in Madison/Milwaukee area

### Location

Monday, February 12, 2018 (9:00-2:30) at MidState Technical College in Stevens Point

### Math Leaders have Heart!

WiMLC is excited to have Dr. Timothy D. Kanold return for WMC Leadership Pre-Conference at WMC Annual Mathematics Conference in Green Lake on May 2, 2018. Attendees at our WiMLC winter meetings will receive a complimentary copy of Dr. Kanold's latest book, *Heart! Fully Forming Your Professional Life as a Teacher and Leader*. Join us as we journey together and reflect upon our professional impact on students and colleagues, and explore our distinctive heartprints. See you at our winter WiMLC meetings!

Questions about WiMLC? Contact Jennifer Lawler [jlawler@kUSD.edu](mailto:jlawler@kUSD.edu) or Becky Walker [bwalker@CESA7.org](mailto:bwalker@CESA7.org).

## WMEF Offers Opportunities

It has been said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." During the upcoming holiday season, the Wisconsin Mathematics Education Foundation is giving you an opportunity to do both.

If you would like to receive this year, WMEF has two opportunities. If you have a staff development idea or a student activity idea, and need the funds to carry it out, WMEF is here for you. We are offering the new Julie Stafford Staff Development Grants, and Student Activity Grants. Both of these grants have applications that are due

on December 1. See <http://wmefonline.org/julie-stafford-prof-dev-grants/> for the Stafford Grant application and <http://wmefonline.org/student-activities-grants/> for the Student Activity Grant application.

These are the kinds of investments that WMEF makes to improve math education in Wisconsin. You can be part of supporting similar opportunities by making a tax-deductible donation to WMEF. You can contribute at <http://wmefonline.org/donations/> or by designating extra money on your annual membership renewal form.

You can also donate your time, like Kelly Schaefer, our newest Board Member. We need help with evaluating applications for grants and scholarships, and with seeking large donations from corporations and individuals. Interested volunteers can contact our chairperson, John Janty, at [jjanty@charter.net](mailto:jjanty@charter.net).

## WI-AMTE Updates

As a follow-up to the upcoming College Readiness in Mathematics Summit in Madison on November 9th, The Wisconsin Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators

(WI-AMTE) invites you to attend a webinar to discuss the soon to be released joint statement of the Wisconsin Mathematics Council, the Wisconsin Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Supporting College and Career Readiness for Each and Every Wisconsin Student.

### WI-AMTE Webinar: Supporting College & Career Readiness in Mathematics

Wednesday, December 6th, 2017  
3:30pm – 4:30pm

Register at the following link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd\\_8WLHRdLL-VgrmjkNsE5Tqiv10cTB8VDatKMFIm70qXrsFA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_8WLHRdLL-VgrmjkNsE5Tqiv10cTB8VDatKMFIm70qXrsFA/viewform)

Not a WI-AMTE member? Visit [wiamte.org](http://wiamte.org) to join. Annual membership is just \$15!

Note: You do not need to be a WI-AMTE member to participate in the webinar.

BUILDING A  
MA+HEMATICS  
COMMUNITY:

50 Years &  
Counting  
1967-2017

## Save the Date!

May 2 - 4, 2018 | Green Lake Conference Center

2000 Mathematics Educators

+

200 Educational Sessions

=

One of the best mathematical education seminars in the country

Join us for our 50th year of  
Building A Mathematics Community

## DPI Updates

School and district report cards will be released soon. Summative assessments are designed to evaluate and report on cumulative student learning. Consider this as a call to reflect on your classroom, school or district assessment system. In what ways are formative, interim, and summative assessments used to inform the decisions around next steps for students, grade levels, schools, or districts? Our goal is to provide support to schools and districts as they build capacity for assessment literacy, effective data inquiry, and collaborative professional communities committed to processes of continuous improvement. Professional learning modules are available on the Strategic Assessment page: <https://dpi.wi.gov/strategic-assessment>.

The Presidential Awards for Math and Science Teaching is now accepting applications for K through 6th grade teachers of mathematics, science and computer science. Consider applying for this award or nominate someone to apply. Find more information here: <https://www.paemst.org/nomination/nominate>.

How are we supporting families in understanding how mathematics is taught? Engaging families is something DPI has been recently been thinking about. How do we engage families in mathematics and support them with activities and games to build their understanding of mathematics. Look for information specific to mathematics here: <https://dpi.wi.gov/math/family-resources>.

## Journal Theme

The Wisconsin Teacher of Mathematics welcomes

submissions for future issues. We encourage articles from a broad range of topics related to the teaching and learning of mathematics. In particular, we seek submissions that:

- » present engaging tasks that can be implemented in the Pk-12 classroom;
- » connect mathematics education research and theory to classroom practice;
- » showcase innovative uses of technology in the classroom;
- » focus on work with preservice teachers in the field;
- » discuss current issues or trends in mathematics education.

Submissions focusing on other topics are also welcome. If you have questions or wish to submit an article for review, please email editor Josh Hertel ([jhertel@uwlax.edu](mailto:jhertel@uwlax.edu)) or visit the WMC website for more information (<http://www.wismath.org/Wisconsin-Teacher-Mathematics-Journal>).

### Call for Nominations: Wisconsin Teacher of Mathematics Editorial Panel

The Editorial Board of the Wisconsin Teacher of Mathematics seeks nominations for the WTM Editorial Panel. The Editorial Panel reviews manuscripts as requested by the WTM Editor, assists in setting policy for the journal, and gathers feedback from readers. Serving on the Editorial Panel is a two-year commitment. The Editorial Board has two regular meetings during the academic year (a virtual meeting in Fall/Winter and a meeting at the WMC Annual Conference in May).

Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague. Nominations can be sent to [jhertel@uwlax.edu](mailto:jhertel@uwlax.edu)

### You're in Good Company . . .

WMC members include all levels of teachers from pre-kindergarten to university instructors, mathematics teacher leaders, administrators, and mathematics specialists. Anyone whose goal is to improve mathematics education in his or her classroom, building, district, or state is welcome to join.

WMC supports its members to improve their professional effectiveness and their mathematical skills through

- Professional Development
- Publications
- Recognition
- Student Activities
- Networking



**Don't let your WMC membership lapse...  
Renew your membership today!**

## MPES Conference

The Wisconsin Mathematics Council's Mathematical Proficiency for Every Student Conference was held in the Wisconsin Dells this year on October 18th and 19th. The two-day conference focused on Formative Assessment and Access and Equity. WMC was proud to bring national speakers, Cheryl Tobey and Dr. Lee Stiff, to this conference who shared some great strategies and ideas. The conference also brought together national and state educators to discuss strategies and teaching practices that would help reach the shared goal of improving the mathematics education of all students.

On both days of the conference, there were PK-12, as well as grade-specific and administrator breakout sessions. The sessions provided participants with opportunities to focus on topics pertinent to the current needs of Wisconsin's schools as well as provided the opportunity to network with colleagues.

A special thank you to all of the keynote speakers, breakout session speakers, helpers, and special guests at this year's conference.

We hope you can join us for the next MPES conference in October 2018 . Some speaker presentations and information from the 2017 MPES Conference, as well as more information about other professional development events can be found on the WMC website at [wismath.org](http://wismath.org)

*Wendy Meyer and Amy Traynor,  
MPES Conference Program Co-Chairs*





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