

2017 Board of Director Candidates for The Wisconsin Mathematics Council

Position: President-Elect

Mary Walz (Sauk Prairie School District)

Lori Williams (Manitowoc School District)

Position: Secretary

Laura Godfrey (Madison School District)

Beth Schefelker (South Milwaukee School District)

Position: Grades 6-8 Representative

Travis Logslett (Chippewa Falls School District)

Maggie McHugh (LaCrosse School District)

Position: Statewide Representative

Jennifer Neuenschwander (Brookfield Academy)

Nathan Rosin (Sun Prairie Area School District)

Position: Wisconsin Technical College System Representative

Brad Weiss (Mid-State Technical College)

Position: President-Elect

Candidate: Mary Walz

Statement of Interest:

In my teaching position, I have had the opportunity to change from a traditional to a standards based curriculum; transforming from a sage on the stage to a guide on the side. This included the opportunity to field-test a standards based curriculum. Another unique opportunity I have had was serving on the DPI Wisconsin Mathematics Leadership team that analyzed the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards and the Common Core State Standards. I have chaired the WMC Issues and Positions committee that crafted 9 new position statements.

My students have had the opportunity to have a National Board Certified Teacher and a state finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching as their math teacher. I am addicted to professional development and invest the majority of my summer facilitating or participating in such events as WSMI, Core Plus, and WASDI over the years here in Wisconsin and across the country. With a computer science certification, I thrive on integrating technology in my classroom and have returned to teaching computer programming and principles. Within my district, I have served on a K-12 math committee that orchestrated the development of a K-12 standards based curriculum. And have encouraged the “across grade levels” discussions that develop a professional learning community.

I am an advocate of “The mission of the Wisconsin Mathematics Council is to lead in the development and promotion of quality mathematics education that enhances learning for all students.” For me the most important word has always been “all”. I am a firm believer that all students can learn math if given an opportunity and they are willing to try. I am interested in carrying out that mission as a president elect for the Wisconsin Mathematics Council.

Position: President-Elect

Candidate: Lori Williams

Statement of Interest:

My name is Lori Williams and I would like to represent WMC members as President-Elect and then President of the Wisconsin Mathematics Council. I believe my 30 years of experiences and continuing education would well represent a variety of math educators' interests and priorities over the next four years.

I have been employed in the Manitowoc Public School District in a variety of roles over the course of my career. In 2011, the MPSD created the K-12 Math Specialist position I have held for the last six years. I work to coach teachers, lead discussions, and provide professional development concerning the CCSS. Prior to this I was a 4th and 5th grade teacher, an instructional resource teacher/coach, and a gifted & talented program coordinator.

Throughout this 30-year career I have focused my own learning on effective mathematics instruction and equity of access for all students to all programming. In the 1990's I participated in the Wisconsin Academy Staff Development Initiative (WASDI) that worked to train teacher leaders in standards-based instruction. Following that, I completed a Masters of Education – Professional Development through UW-EC. My concentrations at that time were effective math instruction and meeting the needs of diverse learners. In 2010, I completed my doctoral studies at UWM in Curriculum & Instruction with Dr. DeAnn Huinker as my advisor.

I worked with Dr. Billie Sparks and Lisa Borowski to design and provide math content classes for elementary and junior high teachers through CESA7 (known as "Frameworks in Mathematics"). Also through CESA 7, Dr. Sparks, Chris Castellero, and I worked to unpack the CCSS into a resource that infused the math practices into grade level content expectations ("StandardsInsight"). I have tried to give back to the math education community by presenting at the WMC Annual Conference and MPES Conferences as well as NCTM regional and national conferences.

I am a member of NCTM, NCSM, and CPAM and regularly attend their conferences and events. I have been a member of the WMC since the mid-1990's serving at different times on the professional development committee, the program committee for the annual conference, and on journal staff. I am currently the newsletter editor. I have been a member of the WMC Board of Directors for the last three years as the Statewide Representative and joined the Executive Committee of the Board last summer. I would be honored to continue on the board as President-Elect beginning in May.

Position: Secretary

Candidate: Laura Godfrey

Statement of Interest:

I am very interested in working more closely with the Wisconsin Math Council in our effort to provide students with the experiences necessary to be happy, confident, and mathematically proficient.

I grew up in a small school district in rural central Wisconsin. I work in the Madison school district which is a much more urban setting. I enjoyed teaching math to middle school students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades for 15 years. Then I transferred to a teaching position in central office where I have been able to work with middle school teachers in classrooms as we have improved our student-centered discourse-based math instruction. I continue this work in this position as a teacher from the Central Office in Madison.

In 2011 my teaching position evolved into coordinating the Middle School Math Specialist Program and to be the liaison between the Madison Metropolitan School District and the UW departments of Mathematics, Math Education, and Education Outreach. In this position I really enjoy working with teachers in the classroom in a non-administrative role. The Middle School Math Specialist Program is a partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Madison Metropolitan School District. These courses are each three credit graduate courses offered through UW-Madison that can be connected to a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction (C&I). The courses focused on Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching (MTK). My responsibilities include budget management, co-facilitation of courses, implementing CCSS-M, assessment, teacher academic support, and classroom coaching of program participants. The coursework for this program includes:

- CI636: MKT - Number Development and Generalization
- CI637: MKT - Rational Number and Proportional Reasoning
- CI638: MKT - Geometry, Measurement, and Trigonometry
- CI639: MKT - Algebra and Functions
- CI640: MKT - Experimentation, Conjecture, and Reasoning

In this position I am continually learning more about the Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching and I am able to team with classroom teachers to impact the whole child. I call that my dream job!

This school year, 2016-17, my position includes being a K-12 Math Teacher Leader, providing teacher support with implementation of new curriculum, professional learning, and math interventions.

I would really love to take this experience and use it to work with the Wisconsin Math Council and teachers across the state. I enjoy being part of the excitement of teachers and learners when math makes sense.

Position: Secretary

Candidate: Beth Schefelker

Statement of Interest:

I believe all students can succeed in learning mathematics! This belief has been the backbone of the work I do with teachers, administrators and students. It is this message that must be reinforced and grown throughout the state of Wisconsin. As a candidate for the Statewide Representative, I have a variety of experiences statewide as well as nationally that will contribute to the work of the Wisconsin Mathematic Council and promote the work of mathematics educators throughout the State of Wisconsin.

Over the past 14 years, I've been able to work as a Mathematics Specialist in Milwaukee Public Schools and currently in South Milwaukee School District. This job has provided me with the opportunity to work with teachers to implement high-leverage instructional practices and discuss the impact of these strategies on student learning. I believe teachers need more opportunities to engage in high-quality professional learning experiences. I am currently a facilitator for the Brookhill Institute of Mathematics *Wisconsin State Mathematics Initiative (WSMI)* summer institutes as well as an ad hoc instructor on several grant projects through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. These opportunities have allowed me to help teachers deepen their understanding of the Wisconsin State Standards as well as develop a better understanding of the content knowledge needed to support their grade level work.

As a current board member of the Wisconsin Mathematics Education Foundation (WMEF) I have actively worked with the board to develop the financial resources to provide teachers with opportunities to attend conferences or to support innovative professional development opportunities. As a WMC board member, I could continue to work closely with WMEF to identify needs and grow additional opportunities.

I am excited to have the opportunity to represent you on the Wisconsin Mathematics Council as the Statewide Representative. I hope you consider me for the position.

Position: Grades 6-8 Representative

Candidate: Travis Logslett

Statement of Interest:

My name is Travis Logslett and I am interested in the 6-8 representative position for the Wisconsin Math Council.

Currently I have my bachelor's degree from the University Wisconsin - Eau Claire in Elementary/Middle School education along with a minor in mathematics. I have been teaching 6-8 mathematics for my entire 13-year career. I spent the first ten years of my career as a classroom teacher and the last three as a mathematics intervention specialist. Both have been rewarding and I've learned so much about the way students think about mathematics.

I have been involved in numerous professional development opportunities in my career that have provided me with an incredible wealth of knowledge both in teaching and learning mathematics. I participated in a three-year Wisconsin Academy Staff Development Initiative (WASDI) grant organized by Dr. Julie Stafford and Dr. Bill Sparks. This opportunity provided me many necessary tools about K-12 alignment of standards and what a standards based approach to teaching looks like. This experience also planted the seeds for me about teaching mathematics using a constructivist approach. I also have had the pleasure of teaming up with K-5 teachers to participate in seven different lesson study cycles. This whole process really allowed me a chance to connect with elementary teachers and see how younger students perceive mathematics. Rich conversations with colleagues around how students learn mathematics was so rewarding for those teachers involved in the study and gave myself a clearer picture of K-8 mathematics. Currently, I have teamed up with CESA 10 and a cohort of teachers from the CESA 10 districts in a grant to investigate how formative assessments can be used in the classroom to enrich instruction. One aspect of the grant that has really helped me is the misconceptions students have about mathematics in grades 6-12. By the time this grant is completed, I feel my understanding of mathematics in this area will be greatly improved and changed for the better. Lastly, I have had a couple of opportunities to give presentations at the Wisconsin Title One and Wisconsin Math Council Conventions about getting students involved in mathematics and using different bases to understand the base ten system.

All these experiences have fueled my desire to have students truly understand mathematics and see how it all fits together. I've made it a priority in my teaching that students investigate, hypothesize, experiment, and summarize with all types of mathematical ideas in order to gain a better understanding. I have been blessed that many others have given their time to help make me a better math educator. Now I feel it's my turn to give back.

Position: Grades 6-8 Representative

Candidate: Maggie McHugh

Statement of Interest:

My name is Maggie McHugh and I have been in education for 10 years, having taught at the middle school, high school, and collegiate levels. I am currently teaching 6-8th grade students at a project-based learning school located in the School District of LaCrosse. This setting provides me the opportunity to regularly develop and implement authentic, real-world mathematical tasks that demonstrate relevance for my students. I completed my doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction last year with a focus on bridging project-based mathematics with social justice. I would like to get more involved with the leadership of the Wisconsin Mathematics Council so I can help bring initiatives related to project-based mathematics and social justice to teachers throughout the state.

I have been an active member in the Wisconsin Mathematics Council organization as a conference co-chair for WMC's Annual Conference for the past three years. I am committed to doing whatever I can to make the conference a great experience for all who attend. I have also served as a co-editor of the Wisconsin Math Council Journal. I enjoy bringing educators from around the state and nation together to discuss how to best help our students become better problem-solvers and critical thinkers. My goal is to serve WMC as a board member who can continually bring innovation and dedication to benefit all teachers of mathematics.

Thank you for considering me for this position!

Position: Statewide Representative

Candidate: Jennifer Neuenschwander

Statement of Interest:

I would like to be a Statewide Representative for the Wisconsin Mathematics Council. I have been a passionate member of the math educator community since 1998. I earned my undergraduate degree from UW-Madison with a BS in math education. This education included an intense study of the NCTM Math Standards. Since then, I earned a master's degree from Marquette University in Instructional Technology. I have also completed trainings on the Common Core Standards. I have taught in private, public, suburban and urban settings. I have attended local, national and international math conferences such as NCTM, WMC, ISTE, ASCD, and the Council for Opportunity in Education annual meetings. I have presented at the following conferences:

Council for Opportunity in Education Annual Meeting, 2015

"The Wide World of STEM: Help is Just a Click Away"

Wisconsin Mathematics Council, 2013

"Learning Mathematics Outside of Traditional Classrooms"

Wisconsin Mathematics Council, 2008

"Tessellations to Tickle your Geometric Fancy"

Council for Opportunity in Education, 2003

"Using Digital Video in Integrated Learning Projects"

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2003

"Integrating Computational Modeling into Math and Science Curricula"

National Computational Science Leadership Program, 2001

"Modeling Human Population through Computational Science"

Additionally, I have been a successful math club coach for ten years both at Rufus King High School and Brookfield Academy. I have taught math courses from Algebra 1 through Calculus 3. I have experience with both the IB and AP programs.

I hope that I can help math educators across the state with this very important job. Please consider me for the position of Statewide Representative in the Wisconsin Mathematics Council.

Position: Statewide Representative

Candidate: Nathan Rosin

Statement of Interest:

Please consider me a nominee for the Statewide Representative vacancy on the Wisconsin Mathematics Council board. I have recently become more involved with WMC by being part of the Wisconsin Math Council Annual Meeting Planning Committee and would like to take on a larger role with the council.

I have been a math coach in the Sun Prairie Area School District since the summer of 2015. Prior to that, I taught math from 5th grade through Algebra for 17 years. During those 17 years I taught in California, Colorado, and Wisconsin. Additionally, I have been a co-teacher for the Elementary Mathematics Certificate Program at Carroll University. This is a five course series designed to increase elementary teachers knowledge of mathematics and mathematics instruction.

I have had many opportunities to grow professionally and develop teacher's knowledge of math and math education. The following are a few of those opportunities:

- Led and coordinated the *Curriculum Renewal and Design Plan* process in mathematics for K-12 staff
- Designed and implemented a book study on Principles to Actions: Ensuring Mathematical Success for All with *Mathematics Steering Committee*
- Collaborated with Everyday Mathematics consultant to provide professional development to all elementary staff in Sun Prairie Area School District
- Collaborated with middle school staff to provide professional development on Connected Mathematics Project for new teachers
- Participated in *Leadership for Personalized Learning* class from the Institute for Personalized Learning
- Supervised and mentored mathematics student teachers in their final semester of student teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Thank you for your time and consideration of my application for Statewide Representative on the WMC board.

Position: Wisconsin Technical College System Representative

Candidate: Brad Weiss

Statement of Interest:

My name is Brad Weiss. I have a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Master of Science in Teaching Mathematics degree from Portland State University. I have been employed as a mathematics instructor at Mid-State Technical College since 2005. Prior to that, I taught at UW-Rock County in Janesville and at Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon. My wife and I have two children, both educated in the Wisconsin Rapids public school system. Our son is a freshman at UW-Madison and daughter is a senior at Lincoln High School.

While at Mid-State, I have taught fifteen different mathematics courses, ranging from developmental/pre-algebra through calculus. I have led the curriculum development and redesign for numerous courses and have experience with alternate delivery methods, including telepresence, computer-based, online, and lab formats. I have served on various committees at both the local and state levels. Currently, I am a member of the New Instructional Technologies Committee at Mid-State and serve on the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement Committee – a collaborative effort among the WTCS and UW system. I have been a member of WisMATYC (Wisconsin affiliate of American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges) since 2005 and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics since 2004. Professional development experiences within the past year include: WisMATYC Fall Conference (UW-Sheboygan), Wisconsin Math Leadership Council Fall Meeting (MSTC-Stevens Point), College-Readiness in Mathematics Symposium (UW-Madison), and the Assessment Institute (Indianapolis). I have a particular interest in helping to prepare students for a successful transition to post-secondary mathematics courses. I believe the WTCS serves a vital role within Wisconsin's higher education system and know I would provide strong representation on the WMC Board of Directors.