

2011

AWM at CBMS Forum

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The Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences (CBMS), of which AWM is a member, held a Forum on Teaching Teachers in the Era of the Common Core in Reston, Virginia on October 2–4. The title of the conference is a reference to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (which have been adopted by 47 states) and the update of the CBMS report *The Mathematical Education of Teachers*.

The speakers at the Forum included mathematicians, mathematics education researchers, and teachers. Cathy Kessel, Erica Voolich, and Susan Wildstrom (all members of the AWM Education Committee) attended the conference. Other attendees included representatives of CBMS societies, as well as teams from states, regions, and organizations such as Math for America, the Algebra Project, the Council of Presidential Awardees in Mathematics, and College Board. Some teams represented Math Science Partnerships, such as Focus on Math and NebraskaMath.

The significance of the conference is suggested by Suzanne Wilson's talk. Wilson described the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as "an unprecedented and unified effort to promise U.S. children a high quality, focused mathematical and scientific education that involves both focal and core ideas and high quality, aligned assessments." However:

Making good on the promise of these standards will require a revolution in our P–20 educational system:

- In what and how we teach
- In how we organize instruction
- In how we collaborate
- In how we learn from the efforts.

As in previous years, this Forum was designed to foster communication among different constituencies in mathematics education. Significantly more teachers were involved as presenters and attendees than before, contributing to increased communication between teachers and other constituencies.

Some breakout sessions collected input from Forum participants in order to inform the update of *The Mathematical Education of Teachers* report. These focused on the mathematics that teachers need to know, and when and how they should come to know it. Among topics of other breakout sessions were elementary mathematics specialists, teacher preparation in statistics, and preparing teachers and teacher leaders. Discussion in these and other breakout sessions reflected the CCSS context.

Many of the powerpoint presentations from the Forum are on the CBMS web site: www.cbmsweb.org/Forum4/Presentations/index.htm