



Announcing a National Leadership Conference The Future of High School Mathematics: New Priorities and Promising Innovations

Concern about the condition of high school mathematics has been expressed with renewed urgency in many recent advisory reports and policy recommendations. As a result, national attention is once again focused on opportunities for improving the quality of mathematics education.

To address timely issues and to showcase progressive ideas about curriculum, teaching, assessment, and technology in high school mathematics, the Center for Mathematics Education at the University of Maryland, along with *Math Is More* and a group of curriculum development projects, will host a conference of leaders in high school and collegiate mathematics education to be held at the Renaissance M Street Hotel in Washington, DC on **September 25–27, 2008**.

The conference will provide a forum for shaping the national, state, and local policy debates about appropriate directions for progress in high school mathematics, and it will include presentation and analysis of promising innovations produced by extensive research and development programs. The target audience includes high school mathematics teachers, leaders of state and local mathematics programs, mathematics teacher educators, education researchers, collegiate mathematics faculty with special interest in curriculum 9–14, developers and publishers of high school mathematics curriculum materials and tests, and government and foundation officials with policy responsibilities/interests related to school mathematics.

The first segment of the conference will be a Critical Issues Forum with two overarching objectives:

- *To identify changes in current curriculum, teaching, and assessment practice that offer the greatest promise of improving the high school mathematics experienced by all students.*
- *To formulate strategies for collaborative action by K–12 educators, collegiate mathematicians, curriculum developers and researchers, teacher educators, and leaders of education policy that will lead to implementation of desirable changes in high school mathematics.*

Analysis of those issues will be introduced with keynote addresses by David Mumford and Suzanne Wilson.

Mumford is University Professor in Brown University's Division of Applied Mathematics. His research has made fundamental contributions in algebraic geometry, computer vision, pattern theory, and neurobiology. That work has been recognized by award of the Fields Medal, a MacArthur "genius" grant, the 2008 Wolf Foundation Prize in Mathematics, and numerous other prizes. In addition to his research contributions, he has developed and taught a Brown course *Modeling the World with Mathematics* that seeks to bridge the gap between a mathematically literate minority of physical, computer and mathematical scientists, engineers and economists and an alienated majority with a sense that mathematics is abstruse, too hard to use or just plain "fuzzy".

Wilson is Professor and Chair in the Michigan State University Department of Teacher Education and Director of the College of Education's Center for the Scholarship of Teaching. Her work spans several domains, including teacher learning, teacher knowledge, and the connection between educational policy and teachers' practice. She has conducted research on mathematics teaching and authored the 2003 book *California Dreaming: Reforming Mathematics Education* that examines the myths used to explain the failure of reforms, the actual reasons for failure, and the importance of taking multiple perspectives into account when planning and implementing reform.

Subsequent breakout sessions will engage meeting participants in analysis of prominent specific action proposals for the future of high school mathematics. Then the second major segment of the conference will showcase products and findings of seven major curriculum development and research projects that have worked to provide a variety of new resources for high school mathematics teaching.

For further information about the conference program, registration, and financial support for participants, visit the web site of the Center for Mathematics Education at the University of Maryland:
www.education.umd.edu/mathed/conference

