

Message From the TODOS President April 2023

Colleagues,

Last week I had the chance to attend a meeting with colleagues from around the world and learned about some teachings of the [Quechua people](#), South American First Peoples, and their [language](#) / dialects.

One of the speakers at the meeting paraphrased some of the teachings in helping our collective to vision a future - the speaker shared that in Quechua, the word for “behind” is the same word as “future” and the phrase “in front” is the same as “in past.” The image the speaker shared is that as humans, we walk through life backwards - since we, as humans, can ‘see’ our past, but the future is not yet known and not yet seen - therefore it is behind them. I found this fascinating [article](#) that offered me more insight into this image and framing.

This image is helping me to frame the writing for this month’s e-news. This month marks the end of my first year as President of TODOS. It’s been a busy 12 months, learning about the way this amazing volunteer - lead and run organization works, that is ‘seeing’ the past. 2023 is the 20th Anniversary of TODOS: Mathematics for ALL and it’s given me the opportunity to learn more about the [beginnings](#) of the organization and more about the humans that made the commitment those years ago and up until today to supporting a mathematics education professional organization with a vision and mission focused on equity for ALL.

When you ‘see’ the past, you recognize that TODOS exists on the Shoulders of Giants (this is reference to a [book](#) that was very influential in my life as a mathematics educator).

At this time of year in the life of TODOS it seems appropriate to acknowledge the contributions of some of the humans that have played a giant-like role, as a President of TODOS, in the 20 years:

Years	President
2003 - 2008	Miriam Leiva
2008 - 2010	Nora Ramirez
2010 - 2011	José Franco
2011 - 2012	Bob McDonald
2012 - 2014	Don Balka
2014 - 2016	Susie Håkansson
2016 - 2018	Diane Kinch
2018 - 2020	Diana Ceja
2020 - 2022	Linda Fulmore

There will be an opportunity for you to hear from many of these amazing humans at the [conference](#), on June 23, 2023. Past presidents have been invited to participate in the 20th Anniversary Celebration by contributing a talk about TODOS' accomplishments, opportunities, and challenges during their term as President and how they imagine TODOS into the future.

It is also appropriate to recognize outgoing Board members, who've served TODOS: Mathematics for ALL in giant-like ways for two, three, four or many years:

Marta Civil (Current Chair of Research & Publications Committee); *Marian Dingle* (Whose term as an Elected Director of the Board Member and Chair, Advocacy Committee ends April 30, 2023); *Linda Fulmore* (Whose 4 year term as President Elect/President/Past President ends April 30, 2023); *Susie Håkansson* (Current Chair of Member Services Committee); *Nichole Lindgren & Luz Maldonado Rodríguez* (Whose 3 year terms as Elected Director of the Board end April 30, 2023).

Altogether, these are only some of the collective of humans that have played a giant-like role in TODOS: Mathematics for ALL - it is important for us to 'see' where TODOS has come from in order for the future to unfold. There are ordinary humans who engage in extraordinary ways to support TODOS - each of you who have been, or are, involved - contribute in giant-like ways to achieve TODOS goal to advocate for equity and high quality mathematics education for all students— in particular, Latina/o students.

With gratitude for all of the shoulders,

Florence Glanfield, President
Mathematics for ALL