

CBMS Forum on Content-Based Professional Development for Teachers of Mathematics
October 10-14, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Reston VA.

The Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences (CBMS) will host its third National Forum at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Reston VA on October 10-12. The focus will be Content-Based Professional Development for Teachers of Mathematics. This will continue and expand work begun at the two previous CBMS forums. The first, held in October 2008, focused on the recommendations of the National Math Panel Report. The second, held in October 2009, was designed to provide input to the Common Core State Standards initiative of the National Governors' Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Now that these Standards have been published and have rapidly been adopted by more than two-thirds of the states, it is appropriate for the mathematics community to consider what steps we as a community can take to help promote the goals of greater achievement for all students that are envisioned in the Standards. It is our belief that a very important contribution we must make now is greatly to enhance professional development opportunities in mathematics for teachers of mathematics. Indeed, a strong call for more and better professional development for teachers has been a common reaction of all those who have carefully studied the Common Core Standards. Thus our third forum will be devoted to starting a major effort to improve and increase content-based professional development for teachers of mathematics.

The plenary sessions in the forum are designed to provide the participants with a better understanding of the features of high quality content-based professional development for teachers of mathematics. The breakout working sessions are intended to engage the participants in working toward the goal of increasing the number of college and university mathematics departments who partner with state departments and local school districts to provide such professional development to working teachers. Although our focus is on influencing mathematics departments, we expect to attract a broader audience of participants who have a stake and interest in providing continuing mathematical education for teachers. The facts that these Standards have been well received by both the mathematics community and by school policy groups and that they have been widely adopted by the states provide an opportunity for the mathematics community to work toward a major scaling up of content-based professional development opportunities. Common standards should make scaling up easier in that there will be commonality across states in what teachers at a certain level need to know. Our goal is not only in scaling up professional development opportunities, but in getting these opportunities into our systems so they are a part of the on-going responsibilities of departments and other organizations and thus can be factored into the planning of school districts. This forum will be an important step in bringing the community together to begin work on this ambitious goal.

Additional information about the Forum and a link to the online registration form are now available on the CBMS website at www.cbmsweb.org/Forum3. Participants are encouraged to come in teams, but we will also accept individual registrations. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. We have some funding available from the Brookhill Foundation and NSF to help support the travel of participants who would not otherwise be able to attend. There is a place on the registration form to request support if you need it.

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