

# From the Editor's Desk

Sandie Gilliam, Editor

**A**RE YOU AN EDUCATIONAL LEADER? Many consider this synonymous with school administration. But is it? Are leaders the people in schools with status and power? Others consider that certificated district office personnel out of the classroom—which include project director, learning coordinator, assessment facilitator, and the like—are educational leaders, as well. *Can classroom teachers fit this job description, or only department chairs and grade-level representatives in a school?*

*What exactly is an educational leader? What role(s) do they take on?* I read somewhere that “the great leader is a servant first.” Serving others is important, but the most important thing is to serve the values and ideas that help shape the school as a community and provide the conditions where students and teachers can promote and sustain learning for themselves. *Does that mean that everyone is or should be an educational leader?* Like with any endeavor, everyone won’t be interested in it, or cut out to be one in schools. We are all leaders at different times in different places—cooking in the kitchen, helping in church activities, pursuing the values and activities on boards such as the Salvation Army, to name a few. But some like using their classroom to give voice to new ideas, respond to standards, and reach attainable goals for students and teachers. They like discussing issues with colleagues and helping others figure out how to make each math lesson better. They use their knowledge to inspire and reach out to students, parents, and the community.

With this different meaning of instructional leader and roles, do you now consider yourself to be one? *Where in Colorado can one learn about, get on board with, and actively practice this role?* Are you familiar with Colorado Mathematics Leaders (CML)?

“The purpose of CML shall be:

- to build collaboration and share expertise among Colorado mathematics leaders;
- to provide ongoing experiences, information, and support to enable mathematics educators to assume leadership roles which lead to positive mathematics experiences for students in Colorado, and
- to establish and maintain a communication network among mathematics leaders and other related educational leaders and entities, including the Colorado Department of Education.”

So, whether you are an instructional leader in mathematics inside or outside of the role as a classroom teacher, consider being a part of CML. You can help other teachers better accomplish their classroom responsibilities, and students become curious about and engaged in mathematics.

Contact Raymond Johnson, [Johnson\\_R@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Johnson_R@cde.state.co.us), to get on the CML listserv, attend meetings in person or online, and become the leader you were meant to be!

