

# From the Editor's Desk

Sandie Gilliam, Editor

I AM DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE that your very own *Colorado Mathematics Teacher* has won the 2016 NCTM Publication Award for best newsletter, chosen from applications by affiliates from around the country. The evaluators looked at mathematics content/pedagogy and news, value to membership, and the quality and readability of the writing. I can't tell you how pleased and honored I am with this award. It reflects the hard work and dedicated professionalism of the authors, board members, editorial panelists, and contributors like you. It's your newsletter, and you deserve to be proud of the award as well.

When I volunteered for this job in 2012, I was a bit apprehensive. I knew how to teach mathematics, but had no knowledge of the publishing world. I never considered myself an English expert and still don't, but thankfully work with my editorial board and my family. My first *CMT* edition was black and white and was sent to a typesetter who charged for online formatting. My goal soon became to publish in color and take the newsletter in-house. Thanks to the wonders of Adobe InDesign and a special volunteer who has leaned it well, that goal was realized two years ago.

My goal on the CCTM Board is to: give back for all that was given to me over a math teaching career that began in 1975, and to pass along to others the professional knowledge learned along the journey. Many experiences framed this journey: 32 years teaching in a secondary math classroom, followed by 10 years working with pre-service and experienced teachers; speaking opportunities and assessment item writing (both locally, state-wide, and nationally); portfolio writing and video opportunities for National Board Certification and PAEMST Award processes; opportunities to learn from and work directly with Ruth Parker, Deborah Ball, and Jo Boaler; leadership learning as an NCSM board member; and 40+ years as an NCTM member—where conference attendance, journal reading, and an opportunity to write a chapter in NCTM's book, *Mathematics for Every Student, Responding to Diversity, Grades*

9-12 have given me opportunities to both learn and give back. From a young teacher looking up to the NCTM presidents for words of wisdom to an experienced teacher dialoguing with them in person, to a veteran teacher receiving an award from a colleague (NCTM President Diane Briars), my moment that day in April was very reflective—and awesome!

One never knows where their journey as a teacher takes them, and what experiences will be presented along the way. Should you jump at opportunities and extend your current responsibilities, establish desired accomplishments for waypoints during your career, actively pursue your dreams, and/or be satisfied with your status quo?

Have a great new beginning to your school year. No matter where you are in your teaching career, giving back feels really good! Whose teaching journey might you impact this year?



*The NCTM Affiliate Services Committee (ASC) awarded the Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics' "Colorado Mathematics Teacher (CMT)" 2016 Publication Award for Outstanding Newsletter. NCTM President Diane Briars presented the plaque to CMT Editor Sandie Gilliam at the NCTM Annual Conference in San Francisco.*