



From the Director's Chair



Reflections on our first "graduating" cadre

I find it difficult to fathom that this journey began for me two years ago. The time has certainly flown by. Thinking back to my first day on the job, a meeting at the Kentucky Department of Education to contribute to the development of state-wide coaching standards, I remember feeling overwhelmed at the sheer amount of information I realized I needed to know. The need for learning didn't subside when my coaching training began. Packing two years of Cognitive CoachingSM training into one year only served to steepen my learning curve! Yet, the past two years represent the most significant learning of my career in both quantity and quality of information.

I am reminded of a closing activity used at the Math Solution training at ECU my first year. Everyone was asked to lay a flat balloon on a piece of paper and trace its shape. Then, after blowing the up the balloon and letting the air back out, we were asked to place the balloon on the previous outline. We discovered that the flattened balloon would not fit inside the shape traced only moments before. The lesson: when your mind has been stretched by an idea, it can never return to the way it was before. And so it is with coaching for me.

As applications for new coaches are coming in, I find that I am very excited. The fact that coaching is spreading into schools and counties not previously active in our program indicates that the word is getting out about what

the coaches have accomplished and other schools believe it will work for them as well. At the same time, I must acknowledge that there is a tug of sadness knowing that some of our sophomores will not be able to return next year and that our eleven seniors from the original group of sixty-seven coaches are finished with their KCM training.

To our first "graduating" cadre of coaches Mel Benitez, Linda Black, Patty Boyd, Nicole Brock, Missy Cox, Sandy Gavin, Susan Gordon, Denise Justice, Jennifer McDaniel, Jill Price, and Renee Watkins, let me say how much I value your contribution to the work of KCM. Thank you for being so welcoming and supportive of my learning that first year. Thank you for all of the amazing work that you do. You model what it means to be a life-long learner while simultaneously giving of yourselves for the benefit of others! So, to paraphrase, I have learned so much from you that I can never be the same person. I have been stretched. You have all been my coaches by supporting my thinking and helping me get to exactly where I want to be in this moment. . . and I am grateful. Thanks.

I hope that we can look forward and not view this moment as an ending. As we enter a well deserved summer break, perhaps you might take a few moments to consider the fact that there is still much to do in Kentucky and all of us can play a part. Rather than saying, "So long," let me leave you with the walk-away question "So, what next?" - *Jim Justice*



Melanie Benitez



Linda Black



Missy Cox



Renee Watkins



Jill Price



Nicole Brock



Patty Boyd



Sandy Gavin



Susan Gordon



Denise Justice



Jennifer McDaniel

Looking Ahead: Next Year's Training & Trainers

In previous years, coaching training has taken place at Eastern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, and Northern Kentucky University. Training for 2009-2010 KCM Coaches will be held at the University of Louisville.



Next year's senior coaches will complete a 2-day Cognitive CoachingSM Proficiency Module on July 6th and 7th followed by 4 days of Adaptive Schools training in September (15-16) and December (10-11). Coaches will also attend the KCM Coach Collegial Meeting in Paris, KY, on October 9th, the day before the KCTM conference is held at Bourbon High School.

Because most, if not all, coaches are working with groups of teachers as well as individuals, the KCM is offering [Adaptive](#)

[Schools](#) training for the first time. This training is based on the same principles as Cognitive CoachingSM and is specifically focused on tools and frameworks for developing collaborative groups. Carol Simoneau and Jane Ellison, from the Center for Cognitive CoachingSM, will be leading the Adaptive Schools training.



Carol Simoneau has a background in elementary education, is an endorsed reading specialist, and earned a doctorate in educational administration and leadership from Kansas State University. Carol has received the Kansas State Department of Education Distinguished Educator Award. She has also served on the Board of Directors for the Kansas Staff Development Council. Carol is a national Training Associate

for Cognitive CoachingSM and also provides professional development in reading, writing, curriculum design, and assessment. In addition, Carol is a trainer for brain research expert Dr. Pat Wolfe. This training focuses on new developments in brain research and its application to the classroom.



Jane Ellison, Ed. D., is co-director (with Carolee Hayes) of the Center for Cognitive CoachingSM and co-director (with Carolee Hayes) of Kaleidoscope Associates, L.L.C., a corporation that focuses on building capacity in learning organizations. Among her myriad professional experiences as an educator are 6 years as a Director of Elementary Education and 15 years as a principal in Douglas County, Colorado.

Centra Symposium Survey Results and Resources

This April, KCM Regional Coordinators and Program Directors decided to try something new and schedule Centra Symposiums during the weeks of Spring Break. Coaches were asked to choose 2 online meetings to attend from a list of varied topics, days, and times.

Session titles included:

- Sharing Tips and Tools for Leading Professional Development
- Numeracy and the ACT
- Ideas for Family Math Nights and Other Ideas to Involve Parents
- Lessons I Have Learned as a Coach - Where Do I Go from Here?
- Introduction to Windows Movie Maker
- Origami and Mathematics
- Staying Connected
- A *Mathematics Teacher* Article Discussion
- What do High School Seniors need to know for Mathematics College Placement Exam?

Five Senior coaches, 7 sophomore coaches, and 4 Regional Coordinators completed the survey. Below you'll find

the questions asked, summarized responses, and numbers of respondents for each.

Would you like to do this again? (16)

- Yes (14)
- Undecided (2)

What did you like most about the Symposium Experience? (16)

- Having a choice of topics (4)
- Learning and sharing new ideas (4)
- Focusing on a specific topic (5)
- Talking with different coaches and RCs (6)

How could the format be improved? (12)

- Eliminate technical difficulties! (5)
- Not sure / Nothing (5)
- More choices (1)
- Send participants a questionnaire prior to the meeting (1)

What topics would you like to see addressed in future symposiums? (9)

- Not sure (3)
- Any topics related to coaching – coaches' needs, math concepts

(including upper level), how to coach math content in groups, more about PD, practice paraphrasing, staying connected, discussions about philosophy of education, more applications like Windows Movie Maker, state standards and assessments. (6)

Would you be interested in attending similar Centra sessions presented by coaches? (16)

- Yes (11)
- Undecided (5)

Based on these positive responses and suggestions, the Coaching Program directors and RCs are considering options for conducting symposiums next year.

Centra Symposium Resources

(documents shared during some of the sessions) are now posted on the [Discussion Forum](#) under "Hot Topics for Discussion." To join the forum, email the KCM Technology Director, Bill Nostheide at nostheidew1@nku.edu to request a username and password.