

## ICTM Candidate: Short Bio and Statement

Christina Betz-Cahill



**Candidate Name:** Christina Betz-Cahill

**Current Position:** District Math Coach, School District 45 DuPage County, Villa Park, Illinois (2015 – Present)

### Past Experience:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Hiawatha Elementary School, Berwyn, Illinois (2011 – 2015)
- Math Core Leader, Hiawatha Elementary School, Berwyn, Illinois (2013 – 2015)

### Education:

- B.A., Elementary Education with a Community Service Minor, DePaul University, 2011
- M.A., Curriculum and Instruction, Olivet Nazarene University, anticipated 2019

### ICTM Involvement and Activities:

- Co-presenter of *A Math Workshop That Works for You*, 2016
- Co-presenter of *Buying Back Instructional Time Creatively*, 2016

### Other Professional Activities:

- Presenter at district and state level conferences
- Participate in district level curriculum committee work
- Manage district math website *Easy as Pi!*

### Other Affiliations and Memberships (e.g., NCTM, NSTA, ISTA, MMC)

- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
- ASCD: Professional Learning & Community for Educators
- DuPage Instructional Coaches Network

### Honors or Recognitions:

- Golden Apple Scholar Recipient, 2007
- Recipient of the Above the Line Teacher Award (ALT) for redefining teaching with the use of technology, 2014
- Google Certified Educator Level 1, 2016

## Candidate Statements

### How have you contributed to and/or been a leader in mathematics education?

I have had the opportunity to be a leader in mathematics education by leading presentations on current best practices in mathematics instruction. Sessions focused on topics such as: writing about math, problem solving, fluency, and math workshop. Additionally, I've contributed to mathematics education by co-leading our district Math Research Team. The charge of this committee was to research best practice regarding delivery models, acceleration versus enrichment, and standard alignment to curriculum. From this research, our district adopted the Workshop Model. I have pioneered the development of our district workshop structure as well as consolidated and synthesized research, which is made available on my district website. I've also taken a lead role in developing a common language and understanding of the fluency standards and the role they play in the development of number sense. Similarly to my work with Math Workshop, I compiled a cache of resources for teachers to use.

### What role do you think ICTM can play in mathematics education in Illinois?

ICTM provides all Illinois educators of mathematics, at all grade levels, a platform to: network and share in their communal interest and passion for teaching mathematics; further develop their craft of teaching mathematics; explore all aspects of mathematics and interdisciplinary opportunities. Each year, at the Annual ICTM Conference, educators with similar passions and interests come together to collaborate and investigate current trends in math instruction. In addition to ICTM's influence through the annual conference, providing resources on the organization's website ensures individuals have the opportunity to continue to grow their craft. ICTM has the ability to continue providing a venue to exchange views and encourage research of best practice in the teaching and learning of mathematics.

### How do you see yourself being active in and/or contributing to ICTM during your term?

As the district math coach, I have the privilege of being in many classrooms and the ability to be a part of the instruction taking place on a daily basis. During my term, my goal is to be an advocate for EC-6 teachers. I also hope to be an active participant in encouraging more elementary teachers to be a part of ICTM. To do this, I'll do the following: take a personal interest in ensuring resources provided consider the specific needs of EC-6 mathematics instruction; bring the EC-6 math teacher's voice to the table; recruit EC-6 teachers to become members of ICTM; encourage EC-6 teachers to present at the ICTM annual conferences.