



Volume 37, Issue 2

[www.cocld.org](http://www.cocld.org)

April, 2014

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To Members of the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities:

We hope your school year is going well for you and your students.

This past February we hosted our **Math on the "Planes"** Conference in conjunction with the Colorado Metro Math Intervention Team and the Colorado Council for Teachers of Mathematics. Dr. Mary Pittman presented on the instructional implications of diagnostic assessment tools using the New Zealand Numeracy Project Assessment (NumPa), which is a free screener/ diagnostic assessment tool, and also on learning trajectories in mathematics. Participants of this interactive workshop developed a deeper understanding of the foundations of numeracy and developed the knowledge base to interpret results to inform instruction and intervention.

Dr. Richard Kitchen, professor and Kennedy Endowed Chair of Urban Education, University of Denver presented *Explain How You Know. . . How to use instruction in mathematical models to enable all students to approach novel problem-solving and explain their thinking.*

Dr. Kitchen, along with several Colorado state math leaders, presented strategies to organize learning activities, environments and direct instruction so that all students learn math content and participate in mathematical practices. During the conference, participants had the opportunity to work collaboratively to practice and gain deeper understanding of the roles that mathematical models and tools play in both problem-solving and learning. We believe all students can engage in higher-level mathematics through the implementation of evidence-based instructional practices. For more information please see the Math on the "Planes" article featured in this newsletter.

**CCLD Tuition Scholarship Award Recipients:** Each year the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities recognizes

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

two students who are completing their education in the field of special education with a \$1500.00 tuition scholarship. This year's CCLD tuition scholarship recipients were Sheena Renninger and Ally Garcia. Congratulations to these fine scholarship award recipients!

### What is new at CCLD!

Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities is proud to announce the beginning of our professional workshop series. Our first workshop: *Behavioral Strategies to Support Effective Instruction in the Classroom* presented by Kiki McGough will take place on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, at Bethany Lutheran Church located at 4500 East Hampden Avenue, Cherry Hills Village, Colorado 80113 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Be sure to RSVP if you are planning to attend. We hope to see you all there!

Another new addition at CCLD is our Facebook page. Be sure to "like" us.  
<https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoCouncilforLearningDisabilities>

### Reminder:

Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD) publishes several journals (Learning Disability Quarterly and Intervention in School and Clinic) focusing on current research in the field of special education. Featured in the February 2014 issue of the Learning Disability Quarterly is an article on *Improving Multiplication Strategic Development in Children with Math Difficulties*, by Drake Zhang, Yan Ping Xin, Karleah Harris and Yi Ding. Please take a moment to read this fascinating article as it examines the effectiveness of a strategic training program for improving students' performance in solving multiplication problems.

Remember, the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities is here to help you achieve in your aspirations and support you in your teaching. We strive to provide you with on-going professional development through Math on the "Planes" and our upcoming CCLD Workshop.

In closing, we appreciate your continued membership and welcome your input. We continue to build and offer opportunities to strengthen our community. If you have ideas to share or would like to join a leadership team or steering committee, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to you joining our board.

Arlene Vigil-Olech M.A.  
*President, Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities*

## CCLD Newsletter

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### UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

36th Annual Conference on Learning Disabilities  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
October 2-3, 2014

CCLD Professional Workshop  
“Behavioral Strategies to Support Effective Instruction in the Classroom”  
Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
April 29, 2014

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### COURAGE TO RISK

As usual Courage to Risk was a great success this year! This year Courage to Risk celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Courage to Risk gave out 25 free registrations at the silent auction for next year’s conference! The two keynotes for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary were Rick Lavoie and Maryanne Wolfe. Hope to see you next year at Courage to Risk! The dates are January 30 and 31<sup>st</sup>. The two keynotes for 2015 are Michelle Garcia Winner and Sarah Ward. The conference will be back at the Broadmoor West which was recently totally remodeled. For more information go to [couragetorisk.org](http://couragetorisk.org). – Liz Peyton, *CTR Representative*

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### CCLD PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP

CCLD Professional Workshop - CCLD is proud to announce the beginning of our workshop series.

Our first workshop: “Behavioral Strategies to Support Effective Instruction in the Classroom,” presented by Kiki McGough. Pairing strategies with learning problems in the classroom, Kiki will present strategies to help students with learning disabilities learn how to self-regulate and advocate for themselves in the classroom. She will offer hands-on tips for educators and parents.

Please join us for an evening filled with great strategies to use in your classroom.



Kiki McGough

If you are planning to join us, please RSVP [amvigil@adams14.org](mailto:amvigil@adams14.org). We hope to see you all there!

Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2014  
Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
Location: Bethany Lutheran Church  
4500 East Hampden Avenue  
Cherry Hills Village, Colorado 80113  
RSVP: [amvigil@adams14.org](mailto:amvigil@adams14.org)

### 2013 RESEARCH AWARDS

Our Math on the "Planes" conference in February, 2014, was another smashing success. Participants engaged in meaningful instruction and conversation regarding students' use of math models to solve challenging problems requiring part to whole reasoning. Approximately 25 participants signed up to earn credits through Adams State University. Research projects will be due in May; shortly after, the projects from two participants pursuing this credit option will be selected as the outstanding research projects.



Those two participants will be recognized in the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities (CCLD) newsletter, their projects will be posted on the CCLD website, and they will earn a research stipend. The Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities has had a long, proud and outstanding tradition of supportive classroom teachers as they engage in action research. We are proud to continue to support teachers in their efforts to improve their skills and enhance the lives of all students. For more information contact: [jpmEEKIS@comcast.net](mailto:jpmEEKIS@comcast.net)

### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### **Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities Tuition Scholarship Application \$1,500.00**

The Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities (CCLD) has a proud history. Founded by pioneers in the field of special education, its early members were passionate about serving persons with learning disabilities and providing professional-development opportunities for educators in the field. The CCLD scholarship has been created to support the new pioneers who are completing teacher preparation programs in Colorado and entering the field at a time when the role of special education is being redefined and rewritten.



**Eligibility:** The scholarship is open to Colorado residents currently enrolled in teacher preparation programs in an accredited college or university in Colorado. Applicants must be working towards a generalist license and have completed at least one half of their program plan of study. Applicants must have an overall-cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher in their Special Education coursework. The scholarship will be awarded to a student in a different institution of higher education each year to ensure representation throughout the state. For more information contact: [jpmEEKIS@comcast.net](mailto:jpmEEKIS@comcast.net)



Our Math on the "Planes" conference in February, 2014, was another smashing success. Participants engaged in meaningful instruction and conversation regarding students' use of math models to solve challenging problems requiring part to whole reasoning. Approximately 25 participants signed up to earn credit through Adams State University. Research projects will be due in May; shortly after, the projects from two participants pursuing this credit option will be selected as the outstanding research projects. Those two participants will be recognized in the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities (CCLD) newsletter, their projects will be posted on the CCLD website, and they will earn a complimentary one year membership to the Council for Learning Disabilities and the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities. The Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities has had a long, proud, and outstanding tradition of supportive classroom teachers as they engage in action research. We are proud to continue to support teachers in their efforts to improve their skills and enhance the lives of all students.

#### **Summary of Math on the "Planes" 2014**

Day One: Presenter Dr. Mary Pittman, CDE Mathematics Content Specialist

Participants of this interactive-workshop developed a deeper understanding of the foundations of numeracy (including the concepts of proportional reasoning and spatial-visualization) and learned ways to assess these concepts within the Colorado Academic Standards. Participants developed an understanding of how to use the New Zealand Numeracy Project Assessment (NumPA) and how to plan instruction/intervention based on the assessed levels of students.

#### **Feedback from participants:**

*I will use more enactive and iconic rather than symbolic models, and feel comfortable moving back and forth between models/levels based on the assessed needs of my students.*

*I provide district training for our secondary teacher. This gives us a tool for secondary to use in the MTSS process - something we have really missed. We can use these models and strategies in the PD for teachers and parents. We will especially focus on the strategies leading to algorithms and the gold standard of thinking.*

### MATH ON THE “PLANES” 2014 (continued)

*I will bring all I have learned to my PLC meetings. This will be great to use with the RTI kids to determine appropriate interventions! I will share this with my grade-level team so we can begin to incorporate the knowledge of number strategy stages within our instruction and understand how it links to the common core.*

*As a district, we will begin to have conversations around the knowledge and strategies in learning mathematics and the stages of mathematic thinking and development.*

*It is critical for Sped teachers (general ed. too) to understand the value of different models and provide students with flexibility in how they think mathematically. I will provide PD for these teachers that will introduce them to a new way to analyze assessment data and plan interventions.*

Day Two and Three: Presenters Dr. Richard Kitchen, Mark Semmler, Cindy Ritter, and Fred Peck.

Participants gained access to:

- Strategies to organize learning activities, environments, and direct instruction so that all students learn math content and participate in mathematical practices
- A deeper understanding of the roles that mathematical models and tools play in both problem-solving and learning
- Strategies to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of mathematical models and tools
- Specific models and tools that facilitate student learning and problem solving with fractions and ratios

### **Feedback from participants:**

*I plan to use the resources of NZ math, sample PARCC problems, and Univ. of AZ Progressions for standards to create tasks that will enable students to understand and internalize the models so they can have a greater understanding of mathematical thinking and problem solving.*

*With these tools, our students can be successful in math. I will provide students with a framework to access the curriculum. I will allow for opportunities for talk-alouds, and have discussions so students can learn from the work of other students.*

*As a coach, I will be able to help teachers think about their approach to math instruction in a new way. The work around tasks, strategies and scaffolding was very helpful. The continuum of instruction is a great tool.*

*I will be teaching my students how to use models, make them always explain their thinking, and most importantly, not teach them “tricks” to solve problems symbolically.*

## CCLD Newsletter

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### MATH ON THE “PLANES” 2014 (continued)

*I would like to see a way to reach out to district administrators and math leaders outside the Front Range to spread the message behind these powerful learning tools. Would you think about having a five-day summer boot camp on the Western Slope?*

*I am a district-level trainer for special educators. I am working with our math content specialists presenting a course on teaching struggling math students. I plan to incorporate all I have learned into our class. This training is so powerful because it gives information that immediately transfers to our work with students.*

**Who are our participants?** About two-thirds of the participants came to the training as part of a district team of ten or more math educators. They included building-level administrators, assistant directors of special education, district math coordinators, special education coordinators, coaches, general education teachers and special education teachers.

**Where did they come from?** About half of participants came from school districts in the metro area, but districts from across the state were also represented. Some of these districts included Gunnison, Brush, St. Vrain, Colorado Springs, Delta, Grand Junction, Westcliffe, Deer Trail, and Swink. For more information, contact: [kyle.hughes24@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.hughes24@gmail.com)

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*“Those who know, do. Those that understand, teach.”*  
– Aristotle

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### CCLD WEBSITE

[www.cocld.org](http://www.cocld.org)

**W**e have many new updates on the website, which include new information on the upcoming Math on the “Planes” conferences plus additional Math Regional Opportunities in the Denver Metro area. Take a few moments and check out these new updates on the CCLD Website Home Page.

Just a reminder, members may access the links presented at the Math on the “Planes” Conference, obtain CCLD scholarship and award information, link to CDE website, and access information about professional development opportunities in Colorado. As always, we are interested in adding new and exciting links to websites on our Resource Page. If there is a website you would like to share with us, please contact Arlene Vigil-Olech, CCLD Website Editor at [amvigil@adams14.org](mailto:amvigil@adams14.org)

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## CCLD MEMBERSHIP has its rewards!

All CCLD members who renew during the spring membership drive (March – June) will receive a complimentary CCLD membership for two year. This is a \$20.00 discount. To be eligible for the promotion, members must renew their CLD memberships each of the two years. Fill out a paper form (do not renew on line) and attach it to an email ( [kyle.hughes24@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.hughes24@gmail.com) ) or snail mail it to Kyle Hughes, 1011 S. Cove Way, Denver, CO 80209.

If you have already renewed during March, contact me and you will be reimbursed for the state dues. Also, if your membership has lapsed, you are still eligible for this promotion.

– Kyle Hughes, *Membership Chair*

[Join Today](#)

### 2013-2014 CCLD BOARD

President ..... Arlene Vigil-Olech

- Website Editor
- Newsletter Editor

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- Research
- Awards and Scholarships

Treasurer ..... Kyle Hughes\*

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  - Math on the “Planes”
- Professional Development Director

CDE Liaison ..... Candy Myers

- National Updates

Newsletter Editor ..... Diane Talbot

- Facebook

CTR Representative ..... Liz Peyton\*

\*indicates past CCLD president

### Leadership Opportunities for CCLD Members



Help create a brighter future for  
our members and the students  
we serve.

If you are interested in working  
with the Board of CCLD

Please contact:

[amvigil@adams14.org](mailto:amvigil@adams14.org)