

Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition Quantitative Literacy Conference

October 9, 2009

Speaker Biographies

William Steenken

William G. Steenken retired from GE Aviation after 35 years of working on inlet-engine compatibility, engine-operability technology, and development issues for turbojet powered aircraft. He still consults with the aircraft industry on a regular basis, and is chairman of a national standards committee – Turbine Engine Inlet Flow Distortion. Bill has twenty-two years of elected school board service, is an active member of the Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition and has served on its Executive Board since 1997. He is also a member of the Ohio Resource Center Executive Committee. Bill has also served on the Board of Directors of the National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions, served a three-year appointment to the Mathematical Sciences Education Board of the National Research Council, and has served on a number of other policy boards concerned with improving mathematics and science education in Ohio. Bill holds a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Richelle Blair

Richelle (Rikki) Blair's interest throughout her career has been curriculum development, incorporating innovative strategies into her classes, and improving mathematics experiences for students at the two-year college. As Professor of Mathematics at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio and former department Chairperson, Rikki worked hard to promote engaging and meaningful learning for her students and bring technology into the curriculum.

Rikki is currently President of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC). She has also served in the following roles in AMATYC: Editor of *Beyond Crossroads*, AMATYC Midwest Vice President, Chairperson of the Placement and Assessment Committee, a member of the 1995 Standards writing team, and AMATYC historian.

Other professional activities include: Federal Advisory Committee for Education and Human Resources Exec of the National Science Foundation, Member of the US National Commission on Mathematics Instruction, Executive Committee of the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences, MAA Committee on Two-Year Colleges, Executive Committee of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board (MSEB) of the National Research Council, Statewide Coordinator for Administration for Ohio's Statewide Systemic Initiative, and was the first Executive Director of the Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition. Rikki has given numerous presentations at professional conferences, and is an author of Introductory Algebra and Intermediate Algebra textbooks for two-year college students.

Rikki received her Ph.D. from Kent State University in Curriculum and Instruction.

Brad Findell

Dr. Brad Findell is the Mathematics Initiatives Administrator at the Ohio Department of Education, and is currently leading the revision teams for the Ohio mathematics standards. He has taught mathematics in grades 1 through 16, focusing mostly on middle and high school mathematics and the preparation and professional development of teachers. During six years at the University of Georgia, Dr. Findell became deeply involved in drafting, revising, elaborating, and implementing the Georgia Performance Standards in mathematics. Before joining the faculty at the University of Georgia, Dr. Findell was a staff member at the National Research Council, working on various mathematics education projects including *Adding It Up: Helping Children Learn Mathematics*, a synthesis of the research literature on the teaching and learning of mathematics in grades K-8.

Elementary School Session Leaders

Linda Gojak

After 28 years of teaching elementary and middle school mathematics, Linda Gojak became the Director of the Center for Mathematics and Science Education, Teaching and Technology at John Carroll University in 1999. Linda has served on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Mathematical Sciences Education Board. She is a past president of the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics, the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Linda received the Christofferson-Fawcett award for outstanding leadership in mathematics education in the state of Ohio and she is a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science.

Linda Quinn

Linda Quinn is a practicing and consulting statistician, president of QED Industries. For more than 20 years she provided statistical services primarily in the industrial and health care sectors. Now she is teaching statistics and math education full time at Cleveland State University and consulting on a part-time basis. Dr. Quinn is active in the American Statistical Association (ASA) and is vice president of the Cleveland Chapter. She is the current chair of the national ASA poster competition for K-12 students which encourages students to explore real life questions and present their results using statistical graphs.

Middle School Session Leaders

Danielle Dani

Danielle Dani holds a B.S. and a M.S. in biology from the American University of Beirut, in Beirut, Lebanon. She received her Ph.D. in education from the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Dani teaches at Ohio University in secondary education, middle childhood education, early childhood education, and curriculum and instruction. Her area of specialization is science education. Dr. Dani's research focuses on the beliefs and practices of teachers engaged in teaching science through the methods and perspectives of inquiry and problem solving. Her outreach efforts center on the development of partnerships between P-12 schools, the College of Education, the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and community agencies. The purposes of these partnerships are to work toward the development of meaningful science curricula for P-16 students, and to foster effective professional development programs for teachers.

Janet Herrelko

Janet Herrelko received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Regis College, Weston, Massachusetts. She completed her Master of Arts degree at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. She earned a doctorate in mathematics education at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Janet worked as a classroom teacher for over 25 years teaching grades 7 through 12 mathematics. While a classroom teacher, she earned National Board Certification in Adolescence to Young Adult Mathematics. Her teaching experiences were in Ohio, California, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire following the career of her husband, an Air Force officer. After completing her teaching in the Mason school district, she moved to the University of Dayton, where she is an associate professor of mathematics education.

Dr. Herrelko commits her professional time to organizations that foster the development of educational research and support excellence in schools. She has served as president of the Ohio Mathematics Educational Leadership Council and the Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition, as well as having served as treasurer of Women and Mathematics Education, an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Dr. Herrelko's research interests include the development of professional development methods that effectively develop teachers' content knowledge in mathematics and linking it to Ohio's teaching standards. She regularly presents the results of her work at national educational conferences. Dr. Herrelko, during an international education visit, was selected to make a presentation at the Ministry of Education in Beijing, China, a memorable highlight in her career.

Richard Javorek

Rich Javorek is a founding member of the Ohio Social Studies Resource Center, housed at the Ohio Historical Society. He served as Chair, Past Chair and parliamentarian. Rich taught for 33 years in the Brunswick City Schools, before retiring to teach at Bryant & Stratton College as an adjunct professor until 2009. He holds a BA in History from Baldwin Wallace and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Kent State.

Rich also served as a member of the Ohio Education Associations Executive Committee for 6 years, the National Education Associations Resolutions Committee in Washington D.C. for 3 years, and currently serves on the Northeast Ohio Education Association Retired Organizing Committee. He also works with the Ohio Historical Society as a Captain of Ohio History.

Michael Mikusa

Michael Mikusa is a professor of mathematics education in the Department of Teaching, Leadership and Curriculum Studies. Before his teaching at Kent State University Dr. Mikusa taught mathematics in a Columbus (Ohio) Public Junior High School and at two different high schools (Clearview Local and Lorain Admiral King) in Lorain, Ohio. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in mathematics education at Kent State University.

Dr. Mikusa's research interests include the areas of geometric thinking and reasoning, professional development of mathematics teachers, and effective uses of technology to teach mathematics. He has authored articles in a variety of mathematics education journals. Dr. Mikusa has written several grants. Currently, he is directing a grant that provides mathematics courses for middle school teachers and a second grant to build a web-based mathematics education system to support teachers and the teaching of mathematics in K-12 classrooms.

High School Session Leaders

Thomas Love

Thomas Love is Associate Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and Director of the Biostatistics and Evaluation Unit at the Center for Health Care Research and Policy at Case and MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland. Dr. Love also directs the Analytic Team for Better Health *Greater* Cleveland, an independent alliance of health care providers, consumers, government leaders, academics and payers dedicated to improving the health of Northeast Ohioans living with chronic disease. He has published more than four dozen research articles related to statistical methods in education, health policy, management and medicine, including several publications on statistics education in the university setting. Tom is the 2010 Chair of the Health Policy Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association, and Co-Chair of the 9th International Conference on Health Policy Statistics, to be held in October 2011 in Cleveland. He also serves as Associate Editor of *The American Statistician*. Dr. Love holds a Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Pennsylvania and two Masters' degrees in Mathematics Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Tom has had the pleasure to speak to many gatherings of mathematics and other educators at the high school and university levels about issues related to statistical thinking and statistics education. These include the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics' Back to the University Workshop, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Joint Statistical Meetings, the Cleveland chapter of the American Statistical Association, several chapters of the American Society for Quality, the Making Statistics More Effective in Schools and Business conferences, and the Data Symposium sponsored by the Center for Mathematics & Science Education, Teaching & Technology at John Carroll University.

Gregory Foley

Greg Foley received B.A. and M.A. degrees in mathematics and a Ph.D. in mathematics education from The University of Texas at Austin. He is the Robert L. Morton Professor of Mathematics Education at Ohio University. Foley has taught elementary arithmetic through graduate-level mathematics, as well as upper division and graduate-level mathematics education classes. He has held faculty positions at North Harris County College, Austin Community College, The Ohio State University, Sam Houston State University, and Appalachian State University. He served as Director of the Liberal Arts and Science Academy and as Senior Scientist for Secondary School Mathematics Improvement for the Austin Independent School District in Austin, Texas. Dr. Foley has presented over 250 lectures, workshops, and institutes throughout the United States and internationally, has directed or co-directed more than 40 funded projects, totaling some \$6 million, and has published over 30 scholarly works. He is a recipient of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) Award for Mathematics Excellence, and a Teachers Teaching with Technology (T³) Leadership Award. He is currently developing curriculum materials for a fourth-year high school course aimed at developing quantitative literacy for informed citizenship and college readiness.