



2021

AATM Annual Report



# Table of Contents

Reports

President..... 2

Regional Vice Presidents ..... 3

Treasurer ..... 4

Professional Learning ..... 5

Awards/Teacher Grants ..... 8

Membership ..... 10

Communications ..... 10

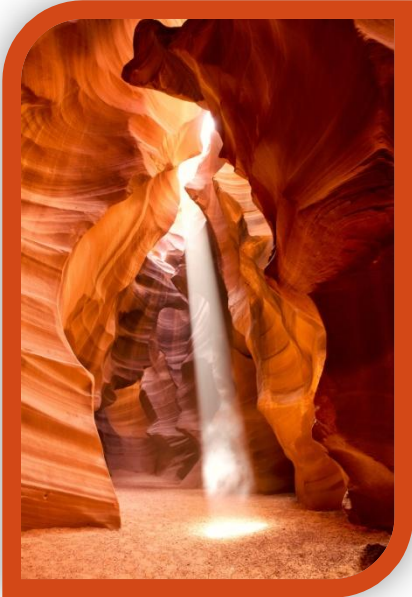
NCTM Representative ..... 10

Nominations/Elections ..... 11

ADE Representative ..... 11

Advocacy/Partnerships ..... 12

STEM Collaborative ..... 12



## President

Amazing Arizona Teachers of Mathematics (AATM),

What an incredible, unprecedented, and unpredictable year! AATM has persevered through ups and downs, empathized with teacher frustration and excitement, and maneuvered through unpredictable plans.

We hope you take a moment to read through this inaugural AATM Annual Report. This year, AATM kicked off the year with strategic planning to determine the future of the Organization, and how we can best serve Arizona teachers. AATM moved to free membership with the hope that we can reach and support as many teachers across Arizona as possible! I cannot emphasize the unwavering dedication of the AATM board. A board that has listened to member concerns and needs, while carefully navigating mental health for all. AATM distributed surveys, listened to feedback, and created professional learning opportunities ranging from book studies to a variety of conference platforms that teachers want and need.

Although we were unable to hold the NCTM Regional and AATM Annual Conference this year, the WOW (Way Out West) Conference hybrid virtual and in-person was a huge success! We look forward to our upcoming Yuma regional this February and AATM Annual Conference in September.

Another highlight this year was the opportunity for AATM to award three \$250 grants to help teachers fund the great things going on in classrooms! We look forward to awarding more in the months and years to come.

Read on for more highlights from 2021 from AATM!

Thank you for an amazing year, and we look forward to another incredible year of progressing Arizona students!

Lori Everson  
AATM President



**Lori Everson**  
President



**Amy Rushall**  
Past-President



**Amy Tixier**  
Secretary

## Regional Vice Presidents

- Pivoted to ensure regions were represented and served, during a time when in-person collaboration was unavailable
- Upgraded to a new professional platform that allowed for enhanced monthly newsletter content
- Communicated monthly rich resources that could be accessed and utilized virtually for teachers and their students
- Facilitated access for Arizona teachers to a variety of nationwide virtual platforms for webinars, workshops, and conferences
- Spread the word about AATM, free membership, and membership benefits
- Engaged teachers and leaders in small and large math-focused learning communities: engaging in book studies, participating in math conferences, and learning with our regions in webinars



Planning ahead... Regional VPs are taking the best of what we experienced during the pandemic to plan in-person regional conferences that will also be offered to all Arizona teachers virtually. This will continue the great coming together and collegiality of the pandemic while preserving the face-to-face interactions that are so important to our math community's well-being.

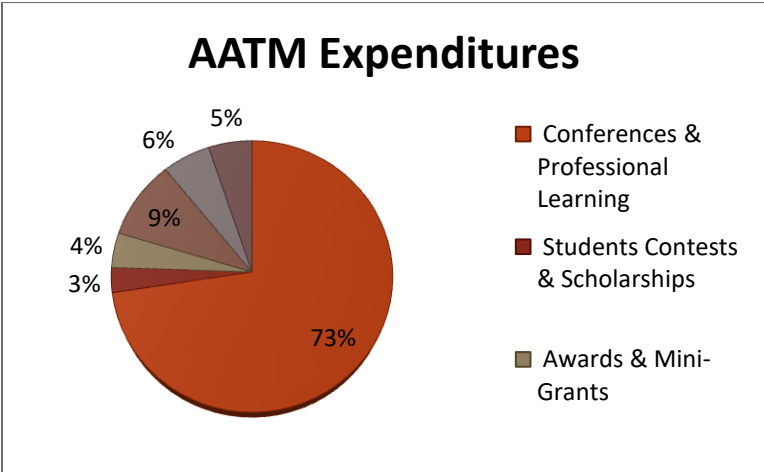
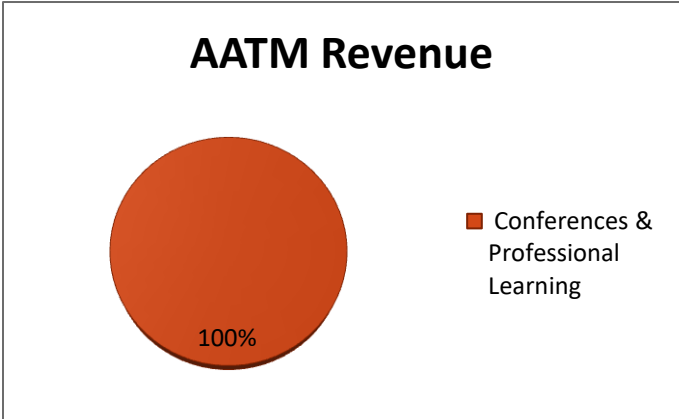
**Treasurer**

**State High School Mathematics Contest**

- Finished an atypical year where instead of planning for conferences with all the treasury details needed to ensure a successful endeavor, adjusted to the COVID-19 world by mailing 500 AATM free face masks to members
- Managed a lower expense budget to get through a year without conferences, securing financial stability for FY22
- In over 65 years of contests, 2020 brought the second time that we had to skip the State High School Math Contest. The AATM contest was suspended during the “war years” of the 1940’s. Fortunately, we completed the contest in 2019, with awards, plaques and three student scholarships, while schools were still in session



Planning ahead... resuming planning sessions for the 2022 contest. The contest date has been chosen and the test is near completion.



## Professional Learning

The professional learning committee moved quickly to revise/establish a detailed list of its primary role and responsibilities. A professional learning vision, mission and beliefs were developed by the working committee with input and approval from the board of directors. Those are detailed below.



**MISSION** (EST. 2020) Guide and support Arizona teachers to affect positive and lasting change through leveraging the impact of multi-faceted professional learning.

**VISION** (EST. 2020)

Equity and excellence in the teaching and learning of mathematics.

**BELIEFS** (EST. 2020)

- Professional learning is a critical lever to achieve equity in mathematics education. Teachers experience and drive change when they address their own biases of what mathematics is, how it is learned, and who can learn it. Through awareness and reflection on personal beliefs and actions, teachers impact student learning of mathematics resulting in lasting change.
- Professional learning equips teachers with knowledge and strategies specifically designed to:
  - deepen the joy and understanding of mathematics
  - implement research-based instructional practices
  - recognize and eliminate bias in the classroom
  - facilitate rigorous, relevant and culturally-responsive student learning experiences
- Professional learning focuses on teachers' individual and collective needs, warranting specific attention and **differentiation**.

**ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES** (REV. 2020)

Established to create a coherent and comprehensive set of Professional Learning offerings that will meet the needs of teachers at all grade levels and at every stage of their professional careers.

**Professional Learning Committee is charged to:**

1. Identify professional learning needs (and wants) of AATM community in order to match PL resources to the needs of the community.
2. Develop, revise, and adhere to a professional learning vision, mission, and set of beliefs that guide and evaluate all professional learning opportunities.
3. Develop and implement a Strategic Plan of Professional Learning for Arizona Mathematics Teachers including timelines/procedures/benchmarks/etc.
4. Review and revise the Strategic Professional Learning Plan annually.
5. Work with the Communications Committee and Webmaster to announce and market upcoming professional learning opportunities.
6. Submit committee reports, as needed, for the Board of Directors, including budget status and requests.
7. Develop leadership and expand diversity of the Professional Learning Committee.

**VARIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPTIONS**

A strategic plan of professional learning options for the 2021-22 school year was developed based on survey responses from the AATM Community. A total of 5 sub-committees were formed for each one of the options, detailed below.

| Professional Learning Options               | Frequency    | Sub-Committee Chair |
|---|--------------|---------------------|
| Virtual Book Studies                        | Quarterly    | Jaclyn Wood         |
| Half Day Saturday Conferences               | 2-3 per year | Carrie Burdon       |
| Late Afternoon Virtual Sessions             | Monthly      | Nora Ramirez        |
| Anytime Webinars                            | Pre-recorded | Tara Fulton         |
| Hot Topic Discussions "30-Min. Cool Convos" | Monthly      | Eboney McKinney     |

## SUB-COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Each member of the Professional Learning Committee became a sub-committee chair for one of the 5 Professional Learning Options. The Professional Learning Committee Chair reached out to various AATM Members who expressed an interest in volunteering to help with the PD Committee. Each PL Option is detailed below.

| PL Option                                  | 2021 Fall Timeline  | Description  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Book Studies</b>                        | 1 book per Semester<br>Tuesdays Sept-Dec 2021 4:40-5:30pm<br>9/8, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28,<br>10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26,<br>11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30, 12/7 | <i>Building Thinking Classrooms</i> by Peter Liljedahl<br>Ready to cozy up with a good book? Join AATM Board Member Jaclyn Wood and AATM Member Cassie Raye as they dig into 14 optimal practices for thinking that create an ideal setting for deep mathematics learning to occur.  |
| <b>Half Day Saturday Conferences</b>       | Way Out West<br>Buckeye, Arizona<br>September 11, 2021  | We circled the wagons to bring our best and most daring educational ideas to share LIVE and Virtually from any location in/around our beautiful state of Arizona. The Keynote Speaker Peter Liljedahl, author of <i>Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics</i> , gave a power-packed punch midday with his 14 Teaching Practices for Enhancing Learning!  |
| <b>Late Afternoon Sessions (Virtual)</b>   | Virtual @ 4:15-5:15pm<br>September 30, 2021<br>October 28, 2021<br>December 2, 2021   | "Putting Practices into Practice" K-12 Audience<br>Topic 1 Fall 2021: <i>5 Practices for Orchestrating Productive Mathematical Discussion</i> Series Three afternoon sessions targeted practices relating to planning for and facilitating problem solving in the mathematics classroom with a focus on rich mathematical tasks. Each participant was expected to learn about, then implement, research-based practices that allow for productive struggle, critical thinking, and meaningful student discourse. |
| <b>Anytime Webinars (Pre-recorded)</b>     | Pre-recorded Spreadsheet of Vetted Anytime Webinars (3-5 per month)<br><br><a href="#">LINK TO LIST</a>   | With so many choices and so little time, AATM has vetted and approved a list of anytime webinars for your convenience! Take the opportunity to hear from experts in the field on specific topics of interest to you. What's more, they're free! Invite your entire team for a professional learning experience or watch solo: Anytime. Anywhere.   |
| <b>Hot Topic Discussions "Cool Convos"</b> | Convos @ 4pm<br>September 16, 2021<br>October 21, 2021<br>November 18, 2021<br><br>Topics TBD by audience   | Got 30 minutes to Chat?! Join AATM Members Addie Santillan, Regina Bedoya and Board Member Eboney McKinney for Cool Convos with AATM! We'll discuss hot math topics and share cool ideas and resources for math educators! Got a cool resource or a hot topic? Your idea could be the next discussion topic on Cool Convos!  |

The Professional Learning Committee is now deep into plans for the upcoming 2022 events. Each of the various PL options detailed above will continue to be offered in the next semester. This will include a West Central Regional Conference on Saturday, February 26, 2022 in Somerton, Arizona.



## Awards/Teacher Grants

### Copper Apple Awards

Unfortunately AATM was unable to present Copper Apple awards during COVID, but are honored to feature our awardees prior to COVID:



#### **AATM Copper Apple Award for Teaching in Mathematics Awardee - Jill Brown:**

- Jill is in her 5th year of teaching at Legacy Traditional School in Avondale, Arizona. She teaches Geometry, Algebra 1, and Saxon Course 3 (Pre-Algebra). Her students come from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds which creates a rich and unique classroom experience. Her students constantly motivate her to try every approach to help them see their potential in math. She is most appreciative for her administrative team and my junior high team whose support has been invaluable.

#### **AATM Copper Apple Award for Leadership in Mathematics awardee - Nora Ramirez:**

- Nora G. Ramirez is a nationally known mathematics educator who has spent over 30 years collaborating with teachers and administrators. She held positions at Arizona State University and Maricopa Community Colleges as a professional developer, mathematics specialist, and principal investigator of several federally funded projects. Prior to that Nora taught middle school and high school mathematics, primarily in Texas. She is a founding member and past-president of TODOS: Mathematics for ALL, a past member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Board of Directors, a past President of the Arizona Association of Teachers of Mathematics (AATM), a member of the Advisory Committee to the National Science Foundation's Education and Human Resources Directorate, and served on several advisory boards for mathematics education and English Language Learner (ELL) related projects. In 2014 TODOS presented her with the Iris Carl Equity and Leadership Award. She is co-editor of *Beyond Good Teaching: Advancing Mathematics Education for ELLs* and is a contributing author to both *Facilitating Conversation About Inequities in Mathematics Classrooms* and *Access and Equity: Promoting High-Quality Mathematics in Pre-K-Grade2*. Currently, she is active in NCTM, NCSM, AATM and Arizona Mathematics Leaders. Her commitment to mathematics equity and social justice is evident in her work with K-12 students and educators, her lens as she contributes to mathematics organizations, her contributions to revising the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) standards for the preparation of elementary mathematics specialists as well as middle and high school teachers, and her work with the mathematics framework development for the 2025 National Assessment of Educational Progress. She now serves as Executive Director of TODOS and works as a mathematics education consultant for school districts in rural, urban, and suburban communities.

## Classroom Grants

- AATM was thrilled to award three \$250 classroom grants this fall:

### We are thrilled to feature our three AATM Classroom Grant winners:

#### **Julie Deal, Satori School, Tucson**

This grant would allow me to purchase the K-2 teaching team student Math Racks (aka Rekenreks). Math Racks are a wonderful tool for building a strong foundation in Mathematics. Early Numeracy is crucial. By purchasing the Math Rack Progression Packs students will have consistent visuals, language, and experiences that will allow them to grow as mathematicians.

#### **Kelli McDaid, Bogle Junior High, Chandler**

My goal is to build a student-centered classroom where they actively think by using whiteboards that are vertically mounted so groups of two to three students can work during classroom instruction. Standing increases blood flow and posture, gives students a larger canvas for non-verbal communication, and almost eliminate stalling and faking behaviors and have a huge effect on the amount of time students are willing to spend thinking when working on tasks. The overall goal is for students to improve their ability to communicate mathematically, work cooperatively, and increase their time spent actively engaged in the mathematics content.



#### **Kerri Zitar - Weinberg Gifted Academy, Chandler**

I want to start creating a school-wide library of math manipulatives/materials that teachers can check out and use in their own classrooms. The benefits are numerous including helping children develop stronger reasoning, problem-solving and computation skills, and helping teachers become more comfortable with using manipulatives in the classroom. I intend to use the KP Ten Frame Tiles w/our gifted 4th graders as we continue to build number sense, understanding of decimal fractions, operations of decimal fractions, and understanding fractions.

## Membership

We are thrilled to have moved from a paid membership to a free membership one year ago. This grew AATM membership from 300 to over 2500 members! Our goal is to impact, support, and inspire as many mathematics teachers as possible in the state of Arizona.



## Communications

The Communications Chair facilitates AATM's efforts to communicate information and resources to its members, sponsors, and donors. This division encompasses all social media and weekly newsletter updates provided by AATM.

In the past year, AATM Communications Chair has worked towards the goal of broadening participation in our organization and helping connect mathematics teacher educators in Arizona. Our social media platforms and weekly newsletter updates support the work of the organization through dissemination of opportunities and information.



## NCTM Representative

- Challenges and roadblocks abound this year with cancelled NCTM regional Phoenix conference and NCTM Annual Atlanta September 2021

Planning ahead... Looking forward to collaboration with other state organizations to support and provide services for members. Perhaps a future NCTM regional in Phoenix in the near future...



## Nominations/Elections

- Formed a new nominations and election committee in spring 2021 to streamline and manage elections
- Developed Google surveys to collect and organize nominations, while also adjusting the election process and calendar:
  - **March** — upcoming nominations and election announcements
  - **May 1-June 10** —Open nominations; request for applications
  - **June 25** — Nominee applications due
  - **July** — Voting slate determined
  - **Aug. 1-Aug. 15** — Slate of officers presented to members; Voting process is finalized
  - **Aug. 15-Sept. 7** —AATM member electronic voting, candidates notified of results
  - **Sept. 10**—Voting results announced to AATM members



## ADE Representative

The ADE Academic Standards Math Team is happy to partner with AATM for the advancement of teaching and learning of Mathematics as well as educational advocacy. ADE shares its professional learning opportunities via the AATM newsletter as well as other math opportunities that would be beneficial to teachers and students. AATM events are also shared through the ADE state list serv. AATM is a valued partner and it's leadership and members are often called upon by the state for the following, but not limited to: when math teachers and leaders are needed to provide professional learning at conferences, host site visit, nominations for PAEMST award, as well as provide input, support and/or advocate for teaching and learning for math.



## Advocacy & Partnerships

Advocacy and Partnerships work with the state and partner organizations, ensuring that Arizona teachers are up-to-date on new legislature that affects the classroom and education and that teachers receive the support needed from across the state.

- Passed along legislature updates and pertinent information to keep teachers informed
- Partner with AML, CRR, ASU, NAU, and ADE and cross state partnerships such as Math Links from California to bring a plethora of resources for teachers
- Authored a position paper on Unfinished Learning



## STEM Collaborative

This year, AATM partnered with ADE, ACHE, ASTA, and AzTEA to offer a “Tech for the Times” professional learning series. As AATM’s STEM Collaborative Representative, the topic of my presentation was on Nearpod with a focus on “How to Promote Student Discourse with Your Students.” I worked with our STEM Collaborative ASTA and AzTEA to organize our 10<sup>th</sup> annual STEM Unconference, titled “Making STEM Accessible.” As a collaborative, we held a strategic planning meeting that was attended by all STEM organizations. Ongoing collaboration occurs with all AATM attending science and technology board meetings.

