



Mary Lindquist and current and former CRMC directors are shown with Ruby Tucker, who was honored with the creation of scholarships to help girls with financial need attend the PRIME Mathematics Camp. From left: Ann Assad, Lindquist, Kitty Fouche, Ruby Tucker, Kenneth Jones, Susan Pruet and Helen Purks Collins.



Part of the Fall MathFest portion of the event, area teachers discuss a problem-solving exercise along the math trail that stretched about five blocks in downtown Columbus.

CSU's Math Collaborative Celebrates 20-Year Anniversary

Area teachers were among 75 attendees of the Columbus Regional Mathematics Collaborative's Fall MathFest and 20th Anniversary event Nov. 3 on CSU's RiverPark Campus.

The mathfest portion involved problem-solving activities designed for teachers to apply in their classrooms. The anniversary celebration included a dinner and panel discussion featuring current and past leaders of the math collaborative, a CSU outreach center supporting teachers in 17 public and private school systems in the surrounding region.

Early in the program, teachers solved a variety of mathematics problems related to artifacts, such as the Feighner Courtyard marker, along a five-block math trail from One Arsenal Place to RiverCenter, down 9th Street, and across to the Corn Center for the Visual Arts.

"We hope teachers will build upon this idea to look for the mathematics around their own schools and involve their students in creating similar trails," said CRMC Director Kenneth Jones. "There are a lot of unique opportunities in Columbus to create similar trails in the downtown/uptown area. It would be nice to be able to secure some funding to help develop trails that parents could do with their children as they explored this part of town."

During the anniversary segment at CSU Theatre on the Park, Jones recognized the founder and first director of the collaborative, Helen Purks Collins. She also is the namesake for the Helen P. Purks Scholarship, which supports teachers in CRMC member school systems.

Jones also announced the Ruby A. Tucker PRIME Scholarship in honor of Tucker, a CRMC resource teacher. "In mathematics there are variables and constants, and there have been many variables during the collaborative's 20-year history, but one constant has been Ruby Tucker," Jones said. "She was involved in the initial collaborative as a Fort Middle School teacher, became a volunteer, served as the collaborative's first paid resource teacher and has continued to volunteer since her retirement."

About \$1,200 has been raised to fund the scholarship. Additional contributions to the Ruby A. Tucker PRIME Scholarship, or the Helen P. Purks Scholarship, may be sent to the CSU Foundation.

Mary Lindquist, former CSU Callaway Professor of Mathematics Education and past president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, moderated the panel discussion.

During the discussion, Collins, as the founding director, assessed the early years. "The Ford Foundation's initial start up grant, which was matched by local businesses and CSU, has shown a huge return," she said. "Although other urban Mathematics Collaboratives in large cities received a lot more money, the Columbus Collaborative is the only one still in existence. The initial \$8,000 invested by the Ford Foundation has been leveraged into over \$3.5 million in grants over the past 20 years."

Subsequent directors Susan Pruet, Ann Assad and Katheryn "Kitty" Fouche also shared insight from their tenures as CRMC leaders.

Jones closed the forum by looking forward. "Our students change, and the standards that we are trying to reach are constantly changing," he said. "The CRMC will work to continue to work to find funding to support teachers' needs. We just need teachers to help us identify the areas of greatest need."

For more information, go to <http://crmc.colstate.edu> or call 706-568-2480.