

# **North Carolina Middle Mathematics Project**

## **Supporting Teacher Retention and Renewal**

The North Carolina Middle Math Project (NCM2) is a collaboration between the Mathematics and Science Education Network (MSEN) of the University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). The goal is to improve mathematics education in grades 6-8 across the entire state of North Carolina, supporting teachers in their professional development and providing academic renewal and financial recognition to support their retention. Nine MSEN mathematics and science education centers, located throughout the UNC system, will combine their efforts and the talents of faculty, school system administrators, and middle school mathematics teachers.

The project will form an NCM2 Leadership Network combining teams from each MSEN center including university mathematicians, university mathematics educators, school district administrators, and highly qualified middle school mathematics teachers (two teachers from each center). The Leadership Network will assist NCDPI in revision of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and revision of the state tests, including End of Grade Tests and the End of Course Test for Algebra I.

The NCM2 Leadership Network will develop a series of three graduate-level courses for middle school mathematics teachers, one each in the content areas of statistics and data analysis, geometry and measurement, and number and algebra. Initial course outlines and planning will be done with the full participation of the team members in the spring of 2002. Courses will then be designed and offered to the teachers by the university faculty, assisted by the administrators, during summer and fall 2002. The classes will be team taught with each faculty member rotating instruction on an hourly basis.

In 2003, the MSEN centers will provide these courses to a total of 135 teachers statewide (15 teachers in each of the nine regions). The teachers will use this course work in obtaining National Board Certification in Early Adolescence/Mathematics and as the foundation for obtaining master's degrees in middle school mathematics education. Project classes will be offered during the academic year to enable teachers to complete additional degree coursework in the summers. Statewide offerings will be staggered to enable the teams to refine the courses over the duration of the project.

The project will continue during 2004 and 2005. The NCM2 Leadership Network will be active in assisting NCDPI and participating in statewide leadership activities. The 135 NCM2 teachers will receive follow-up support from the MSEN centers as they complete the obtaining National Board Certification process and take additional course work for their master's degrees.