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MAA MathFest
Madison, 2012
Background

Organizers
- Complementary strengths of organizers
- State Math Ed experts suggested middle school organizers
- Middle school organizers’ connections within their district are key
- All organizers attended the AIM Workshop in Palo Alto - summer 2009

Planning:
- Planned immersion workshop for Summer 2010
- Obtained funds for workshop and 2010-2011 circle meetings

Funding sources:
- Dean of College of Arts and Sciences
- NSF funds from STEP grant (Biology PI)
- MSRI NAMC Grant
Immersion workshop at UST Gainey Conference Center in Owatonna, MN (Summer, 2010)

Six meetings per academic year

Seventeen public and parochial middle school teachers (core from Minneapolis school district)

Stipend for attending immersion workshop and 5 out of 6 meetings

Teachers awarded development hours

Only workshop participants in the first year in order to build comfort level and sense of community
TCMTC Sessions

Meetings run from 5:15-8:00pm
- 5:15-5:30 greetings
- 5:30-6:30 mathematical session
- 6:30-7:00 dinner
- 7:00-8:00 resume the mathematics and/or pedagogy

"Science and Math for Elementary Education" (SMEE) students included

Sessions are "co-presented" by mathematician and middle school math teacher
Co-presenters meet before the session to discuss the mathematics

Teacher presenter participates at his/her comfort level

Advantages of co-presenting with middle school math teacher

- Co-presenters learn the topic in more depth
- Teachers feel more ownership and involvement
- Helps mathematicians realize the level of the teachers’ knowledge and experience

Wide variety of topics:

- Problem Solving, Puzzles, Golden Ratio, Fibonacci Numbers, String Art and Conics, Quipos, Math of Bubbles
- Several topics have been requested by the teachers
Future

- Efforts to secure funding continue
- Second summer immersion workshop – 2013
  - Current members want another workshop
  - Recruit and increase membership
  - Some current members will co-present for the new members