

## Conference Narrative

Joint Mathematics Meeting, 2019

Assistant Professor Chung Y. Wong

Mathematics Department

From January 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, I attended the Joint Mathematics Meeting, the largest annual meeting in the world. I was able to represent the County College of Morris and gave a 15-minute presentation on using smartphones to enhance my course. The presentation was well received with many questions and suggestions afterward that will certainly make it go even better in the future. Furthermore, I served as a judge for the Mathematical Association of America undergraduate research poster session as a faculty of CCM, contributing to the community and providing suggestions to different undergraduates.

In this four-day conference, I attended 3 teaching workshops and over 15 presentations. In the first workshop, we discussed how to learn from our teaching mistakes to turn them into something beneficial. The workshop included a panel discussion with experienced educators and table discussion with each other. They shared their experiences of past failures, what they learned from them, and how they used the failures to improve. This was a very beneficial workshop as I learned that trying new ideas is not a bad thing because even if it doesn't work as intended, it will be a stepping stone to something better.

In the second workshop, we focused on fostering student engagement. In this workshop, we were provided with different resources on how to engage students in different settings and tried some of the techniques in person. With this experience, I hope to be able to engage my students even more effectively in the future and study the suggestions from the MAA Instructional Practices Guide.

In the third workshop, we discussed the idea of Standards-based Grading, a grading scheme that focuses on the student's mastery on important subjects. This was a very informative workshop as it gives a focus to student learning the concepts instead of studying for the test every few weeks and forgetting all of them afterward. After attending this workshop, I now have access to a large community of instructors that follows this method and who are willing to share their resources.

The presentations I attended are mainly ones that discuss different attempts on how to improve teaching courses from developmental mathematics to Calculus. They ranged from starting with changing the student mindset, redeveloping the course so that the students can see the applications of math, to just simply presenting a topic in a new way. While not all of them are applicable to CCM and some did not produce significant results, they gave me a lot of ideas on what other instructors are trying to improve their classes and how I can use them to improve my own.