

Herb Clemens Opening Statements at 2014 CIME Workshop – Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Math Department Role

If math teacher education is going to flourish in a mathematics department, there must be a teacher education group just like there is a research group in an area of mathematics research represented in the department. Given current political realities, in most cases that group needs to be coordinated and protected by a tenured department member with mathematics research standing—this is possible even when that tenured member is not particularly skilled or celebrated in the area of math teacher education.

Teachers role

If the teaching of mathematics is going to flourish as a profession, the fundamental engine for this will have to come from a leadership community within the teaching profession itself. Math for America would say that that professional community will reach critical mass when it comprises 10-15% of practicing teachers. Math teacher preparation programs (as joint enterprises between math departments and colleges of education) should look to identify and cultivate those student teachers who have what it takes to be future members of that teacher-leader community.