



Debra L. Junk, Ph.D

Coordinator for Mathematics Initiatives

Texas Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science Teaching

Center for Science and Mathematics Education

College of Education

The University of Texas at Austin

TRC Role

On June 1, 2007, Debra became the first Coordinator for Mathematics Initiatives at the Texas Regional Collaboratives.

Her primary role is to support Mathematics Regional Project Directors to provide professional development opportunities for teachers in their regions. Dr. Junk also aims to assist in the development of tools to assess mathematics professional development in terms of teacher knowledge and thinking about mathematics.

Within this role, Dr. Junk plans to continue her focus on children's thinking in mathematics and teachers' thinking in teaching mathematics.

Biography - October 2007

In 1988, Debra received her teaching certificate from the University of Texas-Austin. She began her first job as a 3rd grade teacher at Douglass Elementary School in San Antonio, Texas. Three years later she moved to the Austin area to take a position as a Technology and Mathematics Facilitator in Leander Independent School District. From 1992 to 1998 she helped develop curriculum, conducted workshops for teachers and supported teachers in their classrooms in teaching mathematics.

In 1998, she began graduate school at the University of Texas and graduated in 2005 with a PhD in Mathematics Education. Debra's research interests include children's thinking about mathematics and teachers' thinking and decision making as they adopt new practices and implement lessons designed to promote the development of problem solving strategies.

Current Work in Mathematics Education

To date Debra has taught over 15 mathematics education courses to pre-service teachers, and led over 20 week-long institutes for mathematics teachers on Cognitively Guided Instruction. She has presented on numerous occasions at national conferences for the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), American Educational Research Association (AERA), Psychology of Mathematics Education-North America (PME-NA), and School Science and Mathematics Association (SSMA). Debra has co-authored papers for Teaching Children Mathematics, Journal of Mathematics Teacher Education and Educational Studies in Mathematics.