



# MEC

Mathematics Education Collaborative

*Partners in Support of Quality Mathematics Education*

**PRESS RELEASE**

May 26, 2017

## **The Mathematics Education Collaborative (MEC) is the recipient of a \$300,000 College Spark Washington Community Grant**

WASHINGTON STATE - The College Spark annual, competitive statewide Community Grants Program focuses on building the effectiveness of grantees working with low-income students in middle school, high school and college by funding new and promising practices that help students become college-ready and transition successfully to college.

“Education is not only about equal access, it is about equity,” said Christine McCabe, Executive Director at College Spark. “These programs were selected because they have the potential to improve persistence and completion rates for low-income students, addressing barriers that poor, first-generation, and minority students face in school.”

### **MEC’s three-year project, *Transforming Mathematics Classrooms Through Number Talks: A Leadership Academy*, begins Summer 2017**

MEC, a non-profit organization, has been working with educators, communities, and business leaders for nearly twenty years to promote high quality mathematics education for all students. MEC is thrilled to have this opportunity to focus its efforts on educators across Washington State.

In this three-year project, MEC instructors will help elementary- through university-level teachers learn to place student thinking and sense-making at the forefront of their mathematics classrooms and will prepare these educators to work with other teachers and administrators in their schools, districts, and regions. These educators will learn to enact Number Talks, an instructional routine that is as accessible as it is transformational, as a vehicle for advancing mathematics teaching and learning throughout the state.

Having seen the profound impact that Number Talks can have on classroom cultures, on student dispositions and beliefs, and on teacher practice, MEC looks forward to learning together with hundreds of teachers throughout the state about how best to implement Number Talks on a broad scale and leverage their power for the sustained improvement of mathematics education for all students.

[College Spark Washington](#) funds programs across Washington state that help low-income students become college-ready and earn their degrees. Grantees include community-based organizations, K-12 schools and districts, community and technical colleges, four-year colleges and universities, educational nonprofits, and public agencies. College Spark began supporting access to higher education in 1978 and, since 2005, has awarded more than \$50 million to college readiness and degree completion programs throughout the state.