



## Upcoming Conferences

### Celebrating a Tradition of Excellence in Math Education

Saturday, November 7, 2015

UT-RGV

Edinburg, Texas

<http://rgvctm.org>

### National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Annual Conference

April 15-18, 2015

Boston, MA

<http://nctm.org>

### Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching (CAMT)

June 24-26, 2015

Houston, TX

<http://camtonline.org>



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## President's Message

For many years, the Rio Grande Valley Council of Teachers of Mathematics (RGVCTM) has organized an annual conference to support mathematics education across South Texas. The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Mathematics Conference last November was a great success thanks to the efforts of RGVCTM Board Members, UTPA personnel, volunteers, presenters, exhibitors, and conference attendees. It is through the cooperation of all those involved that we are able to enrich mathematics education for the students of the Rio Grande Valley. We extend a special thanks to the University of Texas – Pan American for their continued support in hosting the conference.

We are very excited to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RGVCTM Conference this year. Keep looking for more details about the conference as they become available. Join our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter to be one of the 1<sup>st</sup> to get the information. We invite you to join us for this outstanding event. The conference will be held at UT-RGV on November 7, 2015. The registration form is on page four of this newsletter, and it is available at [www.rgvctm.org](http://www.rgvctm.org). We welcome your suggestions for improvement of the conference, presenters, or exhibitors.

*Velma Sanchez*

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Join our Facebook Group by clicking here:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rgvctm/>

Follow us on Twitter: @RGVCTM



## 2015 – 2016 RGVCTM Executive Board

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We are now accepting presenter proposals for the 50th annual conference. If you are interested in submitting a presenter proposal or an advertisement for our conference program, you may download the applications for both at the following address:

[www.rgvctm.org](http://www.rgvctm.org)

**See the Side-by-Side TEKS here:**

<http://www.projectsharetexas.org/resource/revised-mathematics-teks-side-side-teks-comparison?>

**See the Vertical Alignment Documents here:**

[http://www.projectsharetexas.org/resource/revised-mathematics-teks-vertical-alignment-charts?field\\_resource\\_keywords\\_tid=vertical%20alignment&sort\\_by=title&sort\\_order=ASC&items\\_per\\_page=5](http://www.projectsharetexas.org/resource/revised-mathematics-teks-vertical-alignment-charts?field_resource_keywords_tid=vertical%20alignment&sort_by=title&sort_order=ASC&items_per_page=5)

## **Spring 2015 testing date changing for STAAR grades 5 and 8 mathematics**

AUSTIN – Commissioner of Education Michael Williams has notified Texas school districts and charters that the spring testing date for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) grades 5 and 8 mathematics will be shifted for the 2014–2015 school year.

The spring testing date for STAAR grades 5 and 8 mathematics will shift from March 30, 2015, to April 20, 2015.

Superintendents, math educators and members of the State Board of Education had asked the

Commissioner to consider a potential shift in the testing date due to the ongoing transition to revised statewide curriculum standards in mathematics. The revised math curriculum standards were adopted by the State Board in April 2012 and are being implemented in classrooms this school year.

“Teachers across our state continue the transition to the more rigorous math standards that are now in place,” said Commissioner Williams. “After visiting with superintendents, teachers, parent representatives and district testing coordinators, it is apparent that shifting the math testing date provides a bit more time to better prepare our students in grades 5 and 8.”

Earlier this year, Commissioner Williams announced that the Student Success Initiative (SSI) requirement that students in grades 5 and 8 must pass the STAAR mathematics assessment in order to move on to the next grade level is suspended for this school year. Suspension of the 5th and 8th grade mathematics requirement applies only for the 2014–2015 school year. The STAAR mathematics assessments in grades 5 and 8 will only be administered one time this school year.

State law requiring students in grades 5 and 8 to pass the STAAR reading exam in order to proceed to the next grade level is still in effect.

Commissioner Williams had also received requests to consider shifting the test dates for STAAR grades 5 and 8 science and grade 8 social studies. These test dates will remain unchanged for the 2014–2015 school year.

However, the Texas Education Agency will post a draft testing calendar for the 2015–2016 school year that reflects a proposed change to the testing dates for STAAR grades 5 and 8 science and grade 8 social studies from late April to mid-May beginning in 2016. The draft testing calendar will be posted later in December for public comment.

To learn more about STAAR mathematics, please visit the Texas Education Agency’s STAAR Mathematics Resources webpage at: <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/taar/math/>.



## 50<sup>th</sup> Annual RGVCTM Mathematics Conference

The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX  
November 7, 2015

On-Site Registration - 7:00 a.m. at Fine Arts Building

Conference 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Early Registration Fee - \$50.00

On – Site/Late Registration Fee - \$75.00

Registration forms must be submitted to Lucy Muñoz via email at [lucymunozrgvctm@gmail.com](mailto:lucymunozrgvctm@gmail.com) on or before the registration deadline, Friday, October 1, 2015. Early registrants will receive a program approximately 2 weeks prior to the conference date.

**Send check or purchase order to the address listed below. Make checks payable to RGVCTM.**

Lucy Muñoz  
906 Jay Drive S.  
Mission, TX 78573

Phone: Home (956) 867-0456

Fax: (888) 435-8303

### Method of Payment:

Personal Check # \_\_\_\_\_ District Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order # \_\_\_\_\_ PO# \_\_\_\_\_

If method of payment is a school Purchase Order (PO), invoice should be sent to:

Person Responsible for PO: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

**Please type or print (this form must be filled out completely):**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_ Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Campus Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Betty Rountree Education Grant

The RGVCTM offers several \$800 grants to potential and current mathematics teachers each academic school year. Our goal is to assist individuals who plan continued study leading toward a mathematics teaching certification or who desire to continue studies in undergraduate and/or graduate work in mathematics or mathematics education. Teachers or paraprofessionals who are current members of RGVCTM and have successfully completed a college level mathematics or mathematics education course may apply for a grant. A member may receive, at most, one grant during each year. The grant money is to be used to help defray tuition and textbook costs for any mathematics or mathematics education course.

**RGVCTM's Betty Rountree Grant Application** Date of Application\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant\_\_\_\_\_

Position\_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level\_\_\_\_\_

Years of Experience\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone\_\_\_\_\_

District\_\_\_\_\_

Campus\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone\_\_\_\_\_

College or university in which you are enrolled\_\_\_\_\_

Name of mathematics course in which you are enrolled\_\_\_\_\_

Date or expected date of completion of course\_\_\_\_\_

Winners must submit proof (e.g. transcript, report card) of completion to receive award.

Please state the need for this grant (financial/academic) and the benefits to be expected from your successful completion of the course in which you are enrolled. If needed, use additional sheets.

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Send application to Velma Sanchez, 4010 N. Juniper, Pharr, TX 78577.