



A personal invitation for you from



**to participate in a landmark event to develop assessment items for the
Common Core Mathematics Standards and Practices.**

Dear Colleagues,

As we all know, the Common Core Standards and Practices are here, and assessments are due to arrive in 2014 from PARCC, the national consortium to which Illinois belongs that is charged with developing the 2014 assessment. While there have been countless workshops to familiarize teachers with the Common Core, no one in Illinois has systemically grappled with the challenging task of preparing high quality test items that teachers can use to prepare students for the coming assessments of the 21st century skills, concepts and practices of the Common Core. No one until now, that is!

With support of the Governor's P-20 Council and ISBE, ICTM and IMSA are sponsoring this two day event to write assessment items aligned with the Standards and Practices. During the two day session we will learn about models from the top performing countries, review the latest information from PARCC and view examples from other states, but the vast majority of time will be devoted writing items that require higher order thinking skills and the ability to apply critical concepts. Some items we write will be performance based, some will be "extended response," and others will be multiple choice, but all will serve as exemplars for other teachers throughout the state and ideally inspire and motivate them to develop and share additional items through ICTM and ISBE. Our ultimate goal is to create a significant pool of sample items that will prepare students for future assessments and inform both Illinois leaders and the national PARCC consortium. Your work on this project will make an important, tangible difference to the students and teachers of Illinois ... and beyond.

We hope that you will be able to join us and look forward to a productive two days. We know that the process will be rewarding both because of the quality of work and because of the quality of people who participate. Attending this event will provide you with extraordinary networking opportunities as you become the trailblazers for assessment of the Common Core Standards and Practices. Please note that while we cannot pay for travel or housing, meals and snacks will be provided. We look forward to your active participation and ask that you RSVP by March 2nd to the phone numbers or e-mail address below. If you would like additional information on the Common Core, please view Sue Eddins' keynote at ICTM <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC8E47A83B811A6BA&feature=plcp>. Hope to see you next month.

Don Porzio, ICTM President

Max McGee, IMSA President and Co-Chair of the P-20 Council Data and Assessment Committee

Assessing the Common Core Standards and Practices

Friday March 9 (10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Saturday, March 10 (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

1500 Sullivan Road -- Aurora, IL 60506

**Please RSVP by February 24 to Mindy (630.907.5023) or Michelle (630.907.5037)
or via e-mail to mmalenke@imsa.edu**