Learning Together Through Collaborative Research:
The Case of Proof in Secondary Mathematics

Abstract: The Proof in Secondary Classrooms (PISC) project is a design and development research study focused on secondary students’ success with mathematical proof. The goal of this project was to develop a new and improved intervention to support the teaching and learning of proof. The central research objective of this project was to develop a pedagogical framework and a corresponding set of lesson plans and support materials to guide teachers toward improving students’ success with proof. The primary educational objective of this project was to support mathematics educators in understanding particular sub-goals of proof and developing strategies for teaching them. We present data and findings from our three-year collaboration on this project (2016-2019), which made use of ideas from design research and lesson study, and we discuss lessons learned through our collaboration.

Michelle Cirillo is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Delaware. Dr. Cirillo’s research interests include the teaching of disciplinary practices (e.g., mathematical proof and modeling), classroom discourse, and teachers’ use of curriculum materials. She is especially interested in the space where these three areas intersect.

Jennifer Reed is a Mathematics Teacher from Wilmington, Delaware. She received a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Wilmington University, but her passion is working with 8th grade students, especially those taking high school geometry. Jennifer has been teaching for 8 years and is currently enrolled in a master’s program in Instructional Design and E-Learning.

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