

You are cordially invited to attend the
MSU Mathematics Education Colloquium

Wednesday, October 24, 2012
3:30 – 5 p.m., 252 Erickson Hall, MSU



Presented by:
Robert Floden
&
the ATS Team
Michigan State University

Discussant:
Dorothea Anagnostopoulos
Department of Teacher Education

Learning How Pupils Make Sense of Algebra Word Problems: Tool Development

An important part of learning algebra is learning how to use algebra to engage with situations described in words. In CCSSM, this area of algebra learning is represented in both the Standards for Mathematical Practice and in domains including Expressions & Equations and Functions. Mathematics educators and researchers have informed hunches about what classroom processes support such learning, but empirical evidence remains meager. One obstacle to expanding the research base has been the lack of appropriate research tools. With support from NSF, teams of researchers at MSU and Berkeley have been developing tools for assessing students' robust understanding for engaging with these situations and for recording features of classroom instruction that have promise for developing such robust understanding.

Robert E. Floden is University Distinguished Professor of Teacher Education, Measurement & Quantitative Methods, Mathematics Education, and Educational Psychology at the MSU College of Education. His research has examined the effects of education policies on teaching and learning, with a special emphasis on roles of preservice teacher preparation and professional development. He is Co-Director of Michigan State University's Education Policy Center and PI for an IES Predoctoral Training Program in the Economics of Education. He has served as editor of both Educational Researcher and the Review of Research in Education. Floden is a member of the National Academy of Education, was selected as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow and as a Fulbright Specialist. He received the Margaret B. Lindsey Award for Distinguished Research in Teacher Education from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Floden's work has been published in the Handbook of Research on Teaching, the Handbook of Research on Teacher Education, the Handbook of Research on Mathematics Teaching and Learning, and many journals and books.

The Program in Mathematics Education sponsors this event.