



Meet David Burrow

ICTM 2017 Friend of Mathematics

Traveling is a joy for Burrow, who has been to every U.S. state, every Canadian province and territory, and various countries in Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Among his favorite places are the cities of Chicago and Los Angeles, and the cold coastal waters of northern Canada and Iceland. The informal photo above shows David on the shore of Hudson Bay at Churchill, Manitoba.

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Almost thirty years ago **David Burrow** joined the ICTM Board as a regional director for what was then AEA 3. He has continued on the Board, serving in a wide range of positions. David created the original ICTM website and served as webmaster for many years. In recent years his primary duty has been newsletter editor. David co-authored an article on using mnemonic devices for the *ICTM Journal*, and also assists at ICTM conferences, and has spoken at past conferences.

Burrow joined ICTM as a student at University of Northern Iowa, earning Bachelor of Arts. Later he earned a Master of Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. He was originally hired to teach Spanish (his college minor). David offers, "I have always thought there are many close similarities between learning a foreign language and learning math."

Since 1983, David has taught mathematics and served as Coordinator for Gifted & Talented students at Bishop Garrigan High School, Algona. David remains certified in secondary mathematics, and Spanish, and K-12 gifted and talented education. Currently he is the math department head, and teaches Geometry, Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry, Analysis, Discrete Math, Calculus, Statistics, and a web design class. He notes, "I have worked at Bishop Garrigan throughout my adult life."

"Ever since I was in high school myself, people have told me I have a knack for explaining math and helping people understand it. My favorite part of the job is doing just that. I love seeing kids who struggle suddenly see how things fit together and even develop a love for math."

Burrow's extra-curricular duties include speech, quiz bowl, the math team, and broadcasting. His academic teams have been to nationals seventeen times, and several of his speech students have earned all-state honors. He serves on a number of school committees, and also serves as the P.A. announcer for football and baseball games. Burrow comments, "I enjoy baseball and particularly liked following one of

my former students on his journey to the Major Leagues."

Burrow's teaching expanded into Iowa Lakes Community College (ILCC), where he has been an Adjunct Instructor in Mathematics since 1993, teaching mostly in a distance education (television) setting. He currently teaches Statistics, and has also taught Math for Liberal Arts, Math for Medical Professionals, College Algebra, and Calculus I. In addition, Burrow has served on several college committees, and in 1999 he co-authored the best practices book *Teaching on Television* with five other ILCC faculty distance education instructors.

Burrow's work has been recognized with several awards:

- Finalist, Iowa Teacher of the Year (Iowa Department of Education)
- Excellence in Education Award (Catholic Diocese of Sioux City)
- Outstanding Educator Award (Kossuth County Jaycees).

Burrow is very proud of the many successful students he has taught, and is thrilled that several of his former students have gone on to become math teachers themselves.

--David Michael Burrow
www.davidmburrow.com

State Friend of Mathematics Award

The State Friend of Mathematics Award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to mathematics education in the state of Iowa. Regional Directors are responsible for submitting the names of potential nominees. These names are presented at the June Executive Board meeting. The Executive Board is responsible for nominating and awarding the State Friend of Mathematics through a vote. The State Friend of Mathematics Award is presented at the ICTM Annual Conference. Awardees are given a wooden plaque with a metal plate inscribed with the ICTM logo, the award, and the name of the recipient.

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