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***How should a mathematics department support
and engage with mathematics education?***

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JimFest

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My Daughter's Take On Jimfest:

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Although this talk is perhaps something like the foreign film category, there are some similarities to the Oscar speeches. I'm taking credit for the work of many people and something that took many years to build. Indeed, sustaining and institutionalizing these changes are a key part of the challenge.

Role of education in math departments?

- valuing teaching as a core part of a math dept's mission
- educating mathematicians in ~~how to teach~~ pedagogy
- including math educators as full members of the faculty

Valuing teaching as a core part of mission

- Look for ways to innovate, e.g., calculus reform, active learning
 - Leadership from chair, Reward (at least recognize) innovation
- Regular nominations for teaching awards
 - Awardees expected to help next nominee; model for nominations
- Built into hiring, annual evaluations
 - Teaching conversations during interviews
 - Used teaching evaluations, but recognize their biases;
- Pursue recognition
 - Department won system-wide teaching award in 1997

Educating mathematicians in pedagogy

- Graduate Students:
 - 3 credit hour course when first teaching class, pre-semester orientation
 - Weekly instructor meetings, lesson plans, observations
 - Supports graduate program & placement of graduate students
- Faculty & Postdocs:
 - Teaching mentors (along with research mentors), observations
 - Support innovations & reward them

Math educators as equal faculty in dept

- Math educators (& teaching faculty) teach advanced courses
 - including graduate topics courses in math ed
- Others also teach courses for future teachers
 - many graduate students teach these courses
- Dept has a long tradition of engaging with Nebraska teachers
 - Partnership with Lincoln Public Schools,
 - Master of Arts for Teaching – math-focused online/summer masters degree for in-service teachers

Some General Principles

- Many ways to contribute to mission; recognize excellence in all
- Collect feedback and input from all, but chair decides
- Addressing institutional priorities buys support for dept ones
- “If you give people the resources they need and expect them to succeed, then they will.”

