

## Additional Information about Discussion Sessions

Discussion Sessions are new to the 2011 program. The purpose of Discussion Sessions is to allow AMTE attendees to hold rich, focused discussions around issues of shared interest, and Discussion Session organizers are responsible for creating an environment whereby these discussions may occur. We recommend each session begin with brief introductions and then a brief presentation by the organizers designed to provide a framing idea for the session. For example, organizers might begin by sharing a video, a written student work artifact, a mathematics problem, or a data set designed to focus attention of attendees around the central issue. The initial presentation should be brief, lasting no more than 15 minutes. Although organizers may draw from their own research or teaching, the focus of the brief presentation is **not** to share the work of the organizers; it is to engage the community in a conversation around issues of shared importance.

Discussion Sessions are distinct from both AMTE Conference Pre-sessions and AMTE Working Sessions (currently called “working groups”). AMTE Conference Pre-sessions are venues for one-time, multi-hour meetings with a special focus or for groups that engage in on-going work. Working sessions are focused on the presenter’s own research or teaching and entail participants engaging in some aspect of that work. Discussion Sessions provide a venue for rich, focused discussions around a particular topic.

### Goals of Discussion Sessions

- The fundamental goal of Discussion Sessions is to provide AMTE meeting attendees with opportunities to hold rich, focused discussions around issues of shared interest.
- A secondary goal of the Discussion Sessions is to create welcoming opportunities for all attendees, including first-time attendees who might appreciate opportunities to interact with others in a more in-depth way.

### Principles Guiding Discussion Sessions

- Discussion Sessions are of the people, by the people, and for the people. The AMTE Board and Conference Committee will neither actively recruit organizers nor will they identify issues to be discussed.
- Discussion Sessions need not evolve beyond the conference. Discussion Session participants, however, may be interested in continuing the focused discussion at future conferences, which would require interested individuals be willing to take a leadership role.
- Although the AMTE Conference Committee reviews proposals for Discussion Sessions, any work that grows out of the sessions is solely the work of the participants and should not be viewed as AMTE-endorsed products or stances.

For questions about *Discussion Session* proposals, contact Randy Philipp ([RPhilipp@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:RPhilipp@mail.sdsu.edu)) or Fran Arbaugh ([Arbaugh@psu.edu](mailto:Arbaugh@psu.edu)).