

Early Career Excellence Award

Dr. Babette Benken

Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Babette Benken has been an asset to the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics since she arrived at CSULB in 2006.



Dr. Benken has enhanced the curriculum, modifying MTED 511 (Mathematics Teaching and Learning) so that it incorporates students' reflections on and writing about mathematics education research. She has also played a vital role as the Mathematics Education Graduate Advisor within her department and as the Single Subject Mathematics Credential Coordinator.

Her scholarship has contributed to a better understanding of teacher learning and development and is making an impact in mathematics education. Dr. Benken has six articles published in national/international peer-reviewed journals, one book chapter soon to be published, two journal articles under review, two substantial manuscripts in progress, and three international conference proceedings (with two more under review). She served as guest editor for a special themed issue in mathematics education for the national, peer-reviewed journal, *Issues in Teacher Education* last fall.

She has obtained 10 grants since 2006, including a five-year \$1.46 million Secondary Teacher Education for English Learner Integration (STEELI) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. She is working on an NSF grant application to secure funding to host a national mathematics education conference at CSULB in September 2010. In addition, she just learned last month that it is likely her new, collaborative proposal for an NSF grant to develop teacher leaders in mathematics and science will be funded for the coming 2009-2010 academic year.

During her tenure at CSULB, Dr. Benken has served on four university, three college, and six departmental committees, including the Program Assessment and Review Council. She was recently elected by the California Department of Education to serve as a Content Review Panel member for the 2007 Mathematics Primary Textbook Adoption. Dr. Benken also served as a member of the Annual Conference Program Review Committee for the California Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators.