Spring 2012 Speaker Series in Mathematics Education
The Center for Research in Mathematics Education, the Department of Mathematics, and Teachers for a New Era Project at the University of Connecticut proudly announce

**Al Cuoco**
**March 21, 2012 at 4:30 pm**
Conference Room BPB 131 (Biology/Physics Building)
UConn, Storrs

“Making sense of elementary algebra”

Algebra continues to be a major obstacle for students. Many stumble over the beginnings of the subject, and even those who fare well in two years of high school algebra are unable to see its power and utility in mathematics and related fields. Part of the reason for these difficulties comes from the disconnect between school algebra and algebra as a scientific discipline. Drawing on examples from Common Core, the monograph “Reasoning and Sense Making in Algebra,” the recently released PARCC “Content Frameworks,” and a four-year high school curriculum that my colleagues and I have developed, I will talk about some ideas for making algebra more meaningful, coherent, and tractable for students and their teachers.

Al Cuoco is Distinguished Scholar and Director of the Center for Mathematics Education at Education Development Center. He is lead author for “The CME Project,” an NSF-funded high school curriculum, published by Pearson. He also co-directs “Focus on Mathematics,” a partnership among universities, school districts, and EDC that has established a community of mathematical practice involving mathematicians, teachers, and mathematics educators. The partnership evolved from his 25-year collaboration with Glenn Stevens on Boston University’s “PROMYS for Teachers,” a professional development program for teachers based on an immersion experience in mathematics. Al taught high school mathematics to a wide range of students in the Woburn, Massachusetts public schools from 1969 until 1993. A student of Ralph Greenberg, he holds a Ph.D. in mathematics from Brandeis, with a thesis and research in Iwasawa theory. He draws constantly on his experience both as a mathematician and a teacher in his work in curriculum development, professional development, and education policy, most recently as part of a team revising the CBMS recommendations for teacher preparation and professional development. His recent book, published by MAA, is “Mathematical Connections: a Companion for Teachers and Others,” but his favorite publication is a 1991 paper in the American Mathematical Monthly, described by his wife as “an attempt to explain a number system that no one understands with a picture that no one can see.”

All are welcome to this FREE event!

Questions? Please contact Fabiana.Cardetti@uconn.edu