

## 2017 Spring MATYCONN Meeting – Workshop Presenters

### **Dr. Christine von Renesse**

Christine von Renesse is a passionate teacher, who loves teaching at all levels — from elementary school through College. She uses open inquiry techniques in all her classes, believing that this is the most effective and enjoyable way of learning and teaching. Her students learn to take responsibility, to think independently and to enjoy the endeavor of challenging questions with growing confidence. The mathematics for liberal arts classes at Westfield State University allow Christine to bring her passion for dance and music into her mathematics life, exploring the deeper connections together with her students. In the mathematics courses for future K-12 teachers she brings her students into the classrooms, collaborating with the teachers in finding effective ways to explore mathematics together. In her free time Christine loves to explore nature, sing in harmony and go dancing, especially with her daughter. Christine has a Master's Degree in Elementary Education, a Minor in Music and a Master's Degree in Mathematics from the Technical University of Berlin, Germany. After receiving her Ph.D. in Mathematics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, she is now associate professor at Westfield State University.



[cvonrenesse@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:cvonrenesse@westfield.ma.edu)



[volker.ecke@gmail.com](mailto:volker.ecke@gmail.com)

### **Dr. Volker Ecke**

Volker Ecke loves being in the midst of learning and teaching. He feels that it is truly a gift to be present when students discover new connections, when they apply their understanding to new situations, when they integrate new insights with prior understanding, and when they learn to trust their abilities to approach a new situation with curiosity and confidence. Dr. Ecke is grateful to the academic community at Westfield State College for allowing him to practice and constantly refine this art; grateful for his colleagues for giving him the freedom and support to dive deeply into this inquiry himself; grateful to his students for inspiring him in co-creating and living in a learning community. After undergraduate studies in mathematics and physics at the University of Konstanz (Germany), Dr. Ecke earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He has been spending his professional career at a public university in the Northeast.