

W. James “Jim” Lewis, lead PI for Math in the Middle, is a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Director of the Center for Science, Mathematics, and Computer Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Lewis is an award winning teacher and an elected member of UNL’s Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Under his leadership as department chair, his department won the University of Nebraska's 1998 University-wide Departmental Teaching Award and a 1998 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. Lewis has also received awards from the UNL Chancellor’s Commission on the Status of Women and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Women’s Commission for his support of opportunities for women in the mathematical sciences. Lewis was a co-PI for the Nebraska Math and Science Initiative, Nebraska's NSF-funded SSI and for Math Matters, a NSF grant to revise the mathematics education of future elementary school teachers at UNL. Math Matters, in turn, began a five-year partnership with Professor Ruth Heaton in the UNL College of Education and Human Sciences.

Lewis is a member of the National Research Council’s MSEB (Mathematical Sciences Education Board) and chair of the MAA’s Coordinating Council on Education. Lewis was chair of the Steering Committee that produced the CBMS report, The Mathematical Education of Teachers, co-chair of the NRC Committee that produced Educating Teachers of Science, Mathematics, and Technology: New Practices for the New Millennium, and a member of the AMS Task Force that produced Towards Excellence: Leading a Doctoral Mathematics Department in the 21st Century. He received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Louisiana State University.