

Math Solutions

TITLE V COOPERATIVE GRANT

TEACHING, TECHNOLOGY, AND LEARNING

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Title V collaborative grant focuses on Teaching, Technology and Learning

The Title V-Teaching, Technology, and Learning (TTL) grant is a five-year collaborative effort between Laredo Community College and Texas A&M International University.

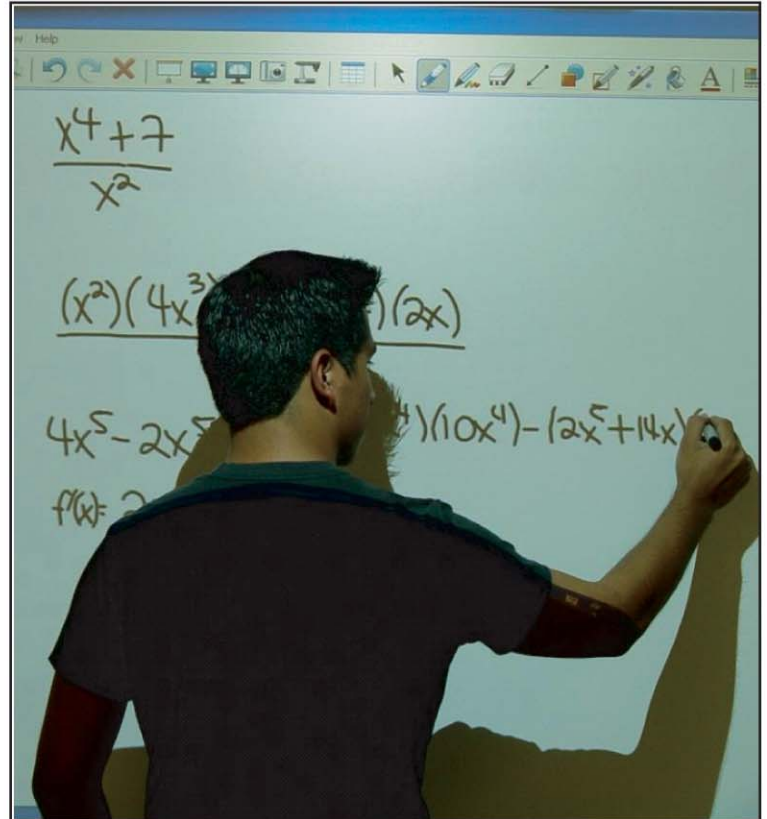
Funds for this grant are provided by the U.S. Department of Education and will be used to improve educational access and success of Hispanic students throughout the community.

The Title V-TTL grant provides both institutions with two technology centers (TTL Centers) that offer students Internet access, web-based computer assisted learning systems such as My Math Lab (MML), ALEKS, MATHZONE and supplemental instruction for mathematics courses and other related disciplines.

Furthermore, the TTL centers will offer instructors training in the areas of curriculum design and assessment and instructional strategies through the use of technology. Other faculty trainings include assessment of teaching and learning outcomes, classroom assessment techniques, effective grading and testing strategies, effective assignment design, and student learning outcome measurement.

Equally important, the Title V-TTL grant will provide Laredo's Council for Educational Excellence with support in their efforts to strengthen their educational outreach programs in the community. The community outreach goals include year-round communication to students, parents, and counselors on the importance of academic preparation in mathematics.

The grant also will provide students with infor-



LCC math tutor Vicente Ruiz explains a math problem on the new Smart Board at LCC.

mation on topics such as college entrance exams, financial aid options, and career opportunities.

Finally, with the support of community business leaders, organizations, and educational groups, the TTL grant will increase educational awareness of the Texas College Readiness Standards and help advocate a college-going culture within our community.

Technology access, academic support now available at LCC, TAMIU

Seeking academic assistance and choosing the appropriate academic resources on campus can have a significant effect on student success.

The Title V-TTL program has recently opened two new math computer labs, giving college students additional academic resources to choose from when looking for math support at both campuses.

The math computer labs are located at Texas A&M International University inside Cowart Hall, room 112 and at Laredo Community College's Fort McIntosh Campus inside Laird Hall, room 277.

These facilities offer student tutorial services, technical support, application software and the necessary tools to complete various math course assignments.

The labs are open to students who want to find a place to study in small groups, do math homework where assistance is available, or work with a tutor in a quiet atmosphere.

The TTL tutors can assist students working on ALEKS, MATHZONE, or My Math Lab platforms. Additionally, math instructors from both institu-



Students visit the TAMIU math lab located in Dr. Billy F. Cowart Hall, room 112.

tions will provide faculty support at both math labs. Instructors will hold two office hours per week and will provide immediate academic support to students in need of assistance in mathematics.

Computer lab coordinators Rick Bocanegra (TAMIU) and Rodolfo Gutierrez (LCC) are available to assist students with any technical issues they may encounter. Both computer labs run Windows XP, Microsoft office 2007, and are equipped with printing options for students.

► Math Corner

Plus or Minus

How should the symbols + or - be inserted between the numbers so that each of the equations below is correct?

1. 2 9 3 5 7 1 = 9
2. 4 4 5 7 2 8 = 8
3. 3 6 5 2 4 4 = 0
4. 8 4 3 5 2 1 = 7

The Corvette and the Mustang

A corvette left Northville at 8 a.m., driven at a speed of 90 miles per hour. Its destination was Southport. One hour later, a Mustang was driven from Southport in a leisurely way at 50 miles per hour. Its destination - you guessed it - was Northville. The total distance between the two towns is 390 miles.

1. When did the cars reach their destinations?
2. Which car was further away from Northville when they met?

► Educator's Corner

LCC Summer Math Camp offers fun instruction

This past summer local middle school students enjoyed an opportunity to explore, discover, and master concepts involving Eudidean geometry.

The summer camp exposed students to a variety of challenging activities that included the use of technology in problem solving, construction projects, and connections between mathematics and other content areas.

Geometry teacher Marty Torrez guided the campers through a hands-on activity where each student was able to build a polyhedron from 30 squares of paper without the aid of scissors, rulers, glue or tape. Furthermore, students learned how to apply properties of regular figures - more specifically, squares - to build a regular, three-dimensional figure that could be held together simply by the inlay of the paper and angles created. The project gave students a chance to discover the relationship between the edges of the dodecahedron and the tessellating properties of a regular pentagon.

Students also enjoyed working alongside Nixon High School geometry teacher Radito Genova as they prepared to fly their tetrahedral kites on the



Summer camper Ana Paola Garcia and Geometry instructor Radito Genova pose with a 2-tier tetrahedral kite. Paola's kite won first place for design and size.

LCC grounds. This construction project helped students better understand the concepts of similar and congruent figures as well as angle measurement, volume and surface area.

Teachers interested in participating as instructors for the 2009 summer camps can contact David Morales at (956) 721-5404. Applications will be distributed to all high schools in spring of 2009.

► Parent's Corner

The benefits of parent involvement

Parents, are you playing a big enough role in your child's education?

You'll need to take a hard look at yourself to answer that question, but you can also ask your child. The response might surprise you.

To gauge your participation in your child's college admissions process, consider taking a quiz by visiting the link below. The quiz will help you determine whether you should get more involved, allow your child more independence, or stay the course.

<http://www.collegeboard.com/parents/plan/getting-ready/155044.html>

UISD Parent Festival is coming!

United Independent School District parents are invited to attend this year's parent festival taking place Saturday, November 22 at United High School.

This year's theme is Fiesta! Community organizations as well as educational leaders from the community will be providing excellent learning opportunities for all UISD parents. All parents are encouraged to attend 2 out of 3 sessions to be eligible for raffle prizes.

The Parent Festival starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call Pablo David Morales at (956) 721-5404.

Student and Parent Links

- ◆ Compare colleges across the U.S. and find the right college for you at: www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/
- ◆ Apply for financial aid at Free Application for Federal Student Aid: www.fafsa.ed.gov
- ◆ Get information on college entrance exams, apply to college, or research financial aid options at College Board: www.collegeboard.com
- ◆ Improve your grades by visiting Study Guides and Strategies: www.studygs.net
- ◆ Studying for that big test? Wish you could remember what you had read? Do you need to know how to study biology or mathematics? This site is for you: www.howtostudy.org

Educator Links

- ◆ National Council of Teachers of Mathematics: www.nctm.org/
- ◆ Texas Instruments: www.education.ti.com
- ◆ Annenberg Media-Teacher resources and teacher professional development programming across the curriculum: www.learner.org

Title V-TTL Directory

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To add institutional events or announcements to the Title V-TTL newsletter, please contact David Morales, Community Outreach Coordinator, at pablo.morales@laredo.edu

Title V is a cooperative grant shared by Laredo Community College (Lead Institution) and Texas A&M International University (Partner Institution). The five-year grant was awarded in October 2007 and is funded via the U.S. Department of Education Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions program. According to the Department of Education's website, "This program helps eligible institutions of higher education enhance and expand their capacity to serve Hispanic and low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional stability, management, and fiscal capabilities of eligible institutions."

For additional information, visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/dueshsi/index.html>