

Math Solutions

TITLE V COOPERATIVE GRANT EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE PROJECT • TEACHING, TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING

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Students add structure to LCC/TAMIU summer seminars on geometry

This summer, the LCC/TAMIU Title V - EEP Community Outreach Program hosted two four-week Geometry Seminars. Over 70 students from local middle schools attended. Additionally, parents were invited to visit each campus, meet the Title V teams, and receive information on the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards (TCCRS).

Participants explored geometric concepts and gained hands-on experience with a variety of construction projects. Students who participated in the bridge building competition conducted research on bridge construction, perspective drawing, and computer-simulated design. Students built each bridge using only glue, balsa wood and Exacto blades. The bridges were weighed and tested for strength. Then, students calculated an efficiency rating for each bridge. Winners for this competition were Madie Simms and Sergio Figueroa from Clark Middle School and Jaime Peña from Washington Middle School.

Teachers used technology to facilitate the learning of mathematical concepts. Objectives for both seminars were aligned with the math standards in the TCCRS. Ms. Patricia Proa and Mr. José Santa Cruz served as instructors. For more information on Title V activities, please contact the Community Outreach Coordinator David Morales at Pablo.morales@laredo.edu.



Laredo Community College Geometry Summer Seminar students show off their creative bridge designs before they are weighed and tested for efficiency at the Kazen Center.



Texas A&M International University Geometry Summer Seminar students conduct research on construction at the Title V Teaching Technology and Learning Center in Cowart Hall, room 118.

Teachers as learners: Math faculty attend AMATYC conference in Washington D.C.

The American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (AMATYC) is an organization devoted to providing a national forum for the improvement of mathematics instruction in the first two years of college. AMATYC provides professional development opportunities for educators interested in the first two years of collegiate mathematics instruction through annual conferences, summer institutes, traveling workshops, publications and projects.

This past fall semester, six faculty members from the LCC and TAMIU mathematics departments had the opportunity to attend the 34th annual AMATYC Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference consisted of workshops and presentation given by educators, administrators, and company representatives that focused on the improvement of teaching and learning in mathematics. This year's conference provided LCC and TAMIU



Mr. Miguel San Miguel was one of the four TAMIU professors who attended the AMATYC Conference

faculty members with the opportunity to communicate with math professionals around the country and discuss ideas in the areas of technology, assessment, and instructional strategies in the classroom. Faculty members who attended the conference included: TAMIU professors Dr. Abe Terutake, Dr. Eduardo Chappa-Leiva, Miguel San Miguel, and Dr. Chihiro Oshima. LCC instructors attending were Christy Babu and Humberto Laurel.

► Math Corner

1. In a local tennis tournament, the champion is to be determined from 100 competitors by elimination. As soon as one of the competitors loses a match he or she joins the ranks of the spectators. How many matches are needed in order to determine the winner?



Solutions from last newsletter:

1. What is the probability of rolling six number cubes simultaneously and getting all 6's?
1 out of 46,656
2. If 6 people attend a meeting, and each person shakes hands with every other person only one time, what is the total number of handshakes that will occur? **15**

► Educator's Corner

Title V Offers Services for Dual Enrollment Students

The Title V-Educational Excellence Project would like to invite local high school students currently enrolled in college courses at LCC or TAMIU to visit the LCC mathematics lab in Laird Hall, room 277 or the TEMA mathematics lab at TAMIU located in Dr. Billy Cowart Hall, room 112. Both labs offer computer access, math tutors, and graphing calculators for all students.

For additional information on lab schedules please contact LCC lab coordinator Rodolfo

Gutiérrez at 721-5823 or TAMIU lab coordinator Rick Bocanegra at 326-3136.

LCC MATH LAB FALL 2009 SCHEDULE

Monday and Thursday, 8 a.m.—6 p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 a.m.—8 p.m.

Friday, 8 a.m.—12 p.m.

TAMIU TEMA LAB FALL 2009 SCHEDULE

Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.—8:30 p.m.

Friday, 8 a.m.—3 p.m.

► Parent's Corner

What to consider before hiring a tutor

Hiring the right tutor is often a process that is complex for parents. Nonetheless, this process should be approached just like hiring any other professional.

So how do you know what program will be a good match for your child? Who will deliver the services best suited for your child's needs and goals? First, here are a few benefits of hiring a tutor. Keep in mind that tutors have the unique ability and responsibility to interact with your child on a holistic level, meaning that the tutor and your child will work together as a learning team to meet certain goals and standards of success. Also, tutors not only deliver content information, they motivate, coach, challenge, and provide feedback for students. Well trained and experienced tutors will work with your child's overall study skills, not just the academic assignments at hand. In fact, hiring a tutor could improve the overall academic progress for your child, which is measured through academic success, improved self-esteem, and increased independence as a learner.

The following is a list of topics to consider when determining whether a certain tutoring program is a good fit for your child:

Credentials- Ask about transcripts, teaching certificates, tutor training certifications etc.

A Tutorial Plan- Give the tutor a list of your concerns and goals for your child. Ask the tutor to offer a basic plan for how he or she will assist your child. How will the tutor conduct an initial assessment of your child's academic needs and challenges? How will success be measured? When will feedback be provided to you and/or your child's teacher?

Fees- Ask the tutor for a detailed pricing plan, i.e. how many sessions at what cost per session. Be sure you are clear about payment requirements, rules about missed appointments, and miscellaneous fees for testing and materials.

Location- Where will the tutoring take place? At your home with supervision? In a public place such as a library? In a dedicated learning center? Tutors should never meet with students in a location where there is no other adult present.

LCC and TAMIU Locations

- ◆ LCC Title V Mathematics Lab - LH 277
- ◆ TAMIU Teaching Technology and Learning Center (TTL) - BCH 118
- ◆ TAMIU Technology & Enrichment in Mathematics (TEMA) Lab - BCH 112
- ◆ TAMIU Mathematics Instructional Digital Resource (MIDR) Center - KL 315 F

Student and Parent Links

- ◆ For additional information on the Title V-EEP Grant visit our new website at www.tamiu.edu/titlevmath/
- ◆ A public service helping learners to succeed since 1996 www.studygs.net/
- ◆ Here's where all the stuff is, both **study skills** and **how to study** sections. www.howtostudy.org/

Educator Links

- ◆ Using Electronic Whiteboards in Your Classroom: www.waukesha.k12.wi.us/WIT/SmartBoard/benefits.htm
- ◆ Smart Board Technologies education.smarttech.com/ste/en-us/
- ◆ National Council of Teachers of Mathematics: www.nctm.org/
- ◆ Texas Instruments: www.education.ti.com

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To add institutional events or announcements to the Title V EEP-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>