

# Math Solutions

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

Volume 2, No. 2

Winter 2009

## LCC/TAMIU Title V participates in math awareness outreach activities

In November, the Title V-EEP Educational Excellence Project teams from TAMIU and LCC continued to reach out to parents and the community by participating at district-sponsored Parent Festivals.

Title V-EEP activity director Mario E. Moreno and math outreach coordinator David Morales participated at LBJ High School, while Beatriz Salinas Riojas and Rodolfo Gutierrez presented at Lamar Middle School. These presentations were delivered in English and Spanish and included the following topics: Mathematics and College Entrance Exams and *Matemáticas y Exámenes de Admisión Universitaria*.

Participants who attended the presentations received information on college entrance exams (SAT, THEA, T-COMP) and learned about the necessary math skills required for students to successfully enter post-secondary education. Presenters discussed timelines for planning and preparing for exams and provided participants with information on college math courses.

This information was intended to help middle school and high school parents ensure that students graduating from high school are well prepared for higher education so they can successfully complete college algebra and eventually the degree program of their choice. Exhibits at both festivals included informative videos for parents showcasing several Title V summer activities, including: Geometry Summer Seminar, Title V Mission Video, and photo galleries. For more information on Title V community outreach activities, please contact community outreach coordinator David Morales at [Pablo.morales@laredo.edu](mailto:Pablo.morales@laredo.edu)



LCC Title V math tutor Williams Calderon is ready to speak to parents at Lamar Middle School about careers in mathematics. He is planning to major in math education, secondary level.



TAMIU Title V Activity Director Mario E. Moreno shares information with parents on College Readiness at the UISD Parent Festival at LBJ High School. He also discussed the use of technology.

# A collaborative effort: TAMIU Title V hosts series of math best practices workshops

This fall, the collaborative staff development component included in the Title V-EEP grant initiative scheduled a series of mathematics best practices workshops. The workshops drew math instructors from TAMIU, LCC and LISD.

During the first two workshops participants facilitated a dialogue around best practice. Professors and instructors in attendance generated a list of Best Practices through literature and standards documents. Methods of recognizing Best Practices through: self reflection, peer observations and collaboration, ongoing evaluation measures were also discussed.

Dr. Selina Vasquez Mireles, associate professor of Mathematics from Texas State University-San Marcos, was the workshop facilitator. To view the Title V-EEP picture/video gallery, please visit us at

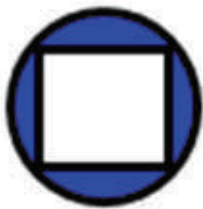


Dr. Selina Vasquez Mireles, associate professor of Mathematics from Texas State University-San Marcos, shares information with participants during TAMIU's Best Practices Workshop.

<http://www.tamtu.edu/titlevmath/commoutreach.shtml> or <http://www.tamtu.edu/titlevmath/PhotoGallery.shtml>

## ► Math Corner

1. A square is inscribed a circle. What is the probability that a point chosen from the circle will be located on the shaded region of the circle? Hint (Use 45, 45, 90 properties of right triangles).



### Solution from last newsletter:

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? **If a champion is to be determined from 100 players then there will be 99 losers. If each loser is eliminated after one match, there will be 99 matches played in order to find a champion.**

## ► Educator's Corner

### SMART Board workshop

Laredo Community College will be hosting two SMART Board training sessions for mathematics instructors, campus faculty and staff. During the trainings participants will learn how to use all the features of the SMART board and Notebook 10.0 Software.

Math department faculty from our local high schools are invited to participate in the Wednesday morning session. SMART boards are being used across the curriculum as technology tools that enhance instruction.

The trainer is Mr. Tom Reardon. To learn more about Mr. Tom Reardon, visit his website at:

[www.tomreardon.com](http://www.tomreardon.com).

Contact Rodolfo Gutierrez at 721-5823 or email [Rodolfo.gutierrez@laredo.edu](mailto:Rodolfo.gutierrez@laredo.edu) to reserve a seat.

Trainings are free of charge and are limited to 25 participants per session.

Training sessions are set for:

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Wednesday January 6, 2010

#### Session 1: Beginners\* Level 1

For LCC/TAMIU Faculty (mathematics and science faculty, plus technical staff)

8:30 am – 11:30 am

Laird Hall, room 277 computer lab

#### Session 2: Advanced\* Level 2

For LCC/TAMIU faculty

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Laird Hall, room 277 computer lab

**\*All participants will receive a free CD with 44 SMART board activities, teacher notes and solutions**

## ► Parent's Corner

### Preparing your child for college success

Parental support, early preparation and planning are three key elements essential for college success. However, while a great majority of students aspire to attend college, most do not have a clear understanding of the steps involved in planning and preparing. Therefore, timely action is critical. Preparing for college admission exams and placement test is an important step which requires planning, information, and resources.

Parents should begin as early as middle school, if not sooner, to develop and continually re-visit an educational plan that will guide their children

through high school and prepare them for college. An early start is best, so students should begin thinking about college entrance tests in their sophomore year. Students should communicate proactively with their high school counselor, which can be an invaluable resource when planning.

Moreover, it is important that parents have conversations with their child about college plans. Parents should find out what college they plan to attend and discuss test scores requirements. Communication with schools is key. and parents should visit with their child's teachers and counselors to discuss test prep programs, or classes that prepare students for college entrance exams.

## LCC and TAMIU Title V-EEP 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.tamiau.edu/titlevmath/](http://www.tamiau.edu/titlevmath/)
- ◆ <http://www.offtocollege.com/>
- ◆ <http://www.collegeforalltexas.com>
- ◆ <http://www.collegeboard.com/>
- ◆ <http://www.act.org/>
- ◆ <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/>
- ◆ <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/>

## Educator Links

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

## Title V EEP-TTL Directory

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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](mailto: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>