

Math Solutions

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

Volume 1, No. 2

Spring 2009

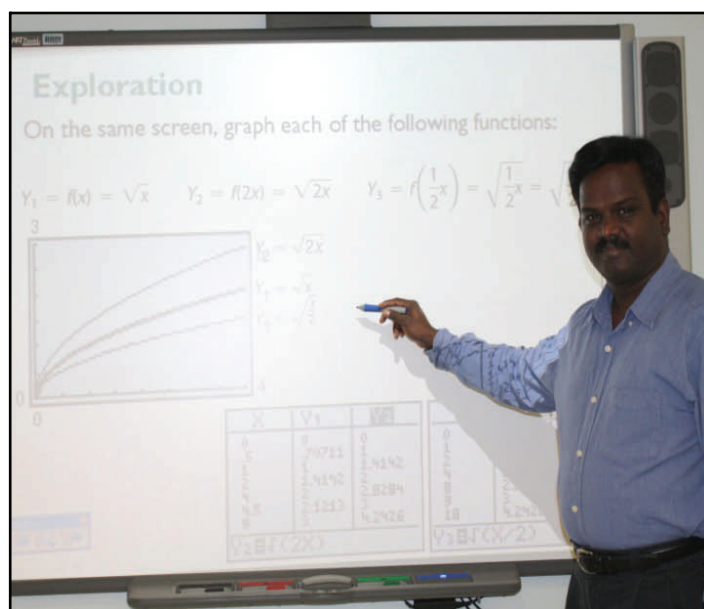
Smart technology enhances learning for students at LCC and TAMIU

With the installation of new interactive Smart Boards at LCC and TAMIU, the Title V Educational Excellence Project-Teaching, Technology and Learning, in collaboration with mathematics faculty from both campuses, has initiated a technological transition to ensure instruction of the highest quality for all college algebra students.

LCC mathematics instructor Christy Babu elaborates on his experience: "The interactive Smart Board is great for demonstrations and I have observed that students respond very positively and are involved actively in the classroom discussion. Additionally, I have observed that students show an increase in motivation when I use the Smart Board for instruction."

LCC mathematics instructor Humberto Laurel also states, "Smart Board technology is a great tool that I've found to be effective in helping my students make the connection between what I want them to learn and their own grasping of the material."

The Smart Board, which is attached to a computer and an LCD display panel, is used to project a "virtual chalkboard" onto a screen. However, there is no chalk but an electronic writing pen, which allows instructors opportunity to write on the screen just as if one were writing on a dry erase or chalkboard. One of the advantages of the Smart Board technology is that everything that is written is also captured as an image, and/or audio file, which al-



Laredo Community College math instructor Christy Babu presents an algebra lesson on the interactive Smart Board.

lows work to be documented and is easily accessible for review purposes by the instructor or students.

LCC mathematics instructor Christy Babu mentions, "Pages are saved automatically, and I am able to print, email or even paste content onto a website." This technology provides a means for students who miss class for any reason to have access to the actual material presented that day in electronic form.

Lessons from the Field: Understanding how students learn and succeed in mathematics

The Title V EEP-Teaching, Technology & Learning Center (TTLC) hosted two Panel Discussions on “How Students Learn College Algebra: Lessons from the Field.”

The first panel focused on improving student success in college algebra. The four-hour panel included the participation of mathematics faculty and administrators from TAMIU and faculty members from LCC and UISD. Both presenters and audience had the opportunity to learn and engage in discussion about students’ perspectives in college algebra, review research on how students learn mathematics, and how to apply effective teaching practices in the classroom.

The second panel focused on formative assessment and the description of student population at LCC and TAMIU.

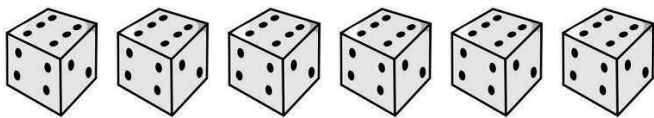
For additional information on these events, please contact Mario Moreno, TAMIU Title V Direc-



TAMIU student Cesar Canales relays information on his experience in College Algebra with faculty in attendance.

tor, at 956-326-2997 or email him at mario.moreno@tamiu.edu

► Math Corner



1. What is the probability of rolling six number cubes simultaneously and getting all 6's?
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?



Solutions from last newsletter:

Plus or Minus:

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

When did the cars reach their destinations?

Corvette: 12:20 pm and Mustang: 4:48 pm

Which car was further away from Northville when they met? **The Corvette and the Mustang would be equidistant from Northville when they meet on the road.**

► Educator's Corner

Title V Math Summer Seminar Update

This summer Laredo Community College and Texas A&M International University will be hosting two math seminars for students transitioning from middle school to high school. During these seminars, students will have the opportunity to build on their geometry skills, apply the latest technology in mathematics, and learn what it is to be college and career ready in mathematics.

Participants for each seminar have been limited to 30 students. Students must have completed Algebra 1 at the middle school level to apply. Applications will be available on March 23, 2009 with all 8th-grade counselors and all applications must be submitted by April 23, 2009. For additional information, contact David Morales at 721-5404 or Beatriz Salinas at 721-5810. There is no application fee. Summer seminars are free of charge.

Students: LISD/UISD 8th grade students who have successfully completed Algebra I and will be



taking Geometry in 9th grade Content: Geometry/Technology/College Readiness

LCC Dates- June 8, 2009 to July 2, 2009
Monday-Thursday 8 am-12 pm

TAMIU Dates- July 6, 2009 to July 30, 2009
Monday-Thursday 8 am-12 pm

► Parent's Corner

Mathematics Awareness Month- Mathematics and Climate

Laredo Community College invites you to join in celebrating Mathematics Awareness Month on March 31, 2009. The event will be held from 9 am to 2 pm and will consist of a proclamation, math competition, lunch, an awards ceremony and a presentation by Meteorologist Katie Roussy and Roger Gass from the National Weather Service Office in Corpus Christi, Texas: www.srh.noaa.gov/crp/

There will be door prizes as well as awards for high performers. All area high

schools are invited, but seating is limited. For more information on this event, please contact Thomas Campos at thomas.campos@laredo.edu. Additional information on Mathematics Awareness Month can be found at www.mathaware.org.

Title V EEP-TTL launches new website

The Title V EEP-TTL Grant invites the community to visit its new website at <http://www.tamiu.edu/titlevmath/>. Here visitors can learn about Title V Mathematics Initiatives, locate upcoming community outreach events, view tutor schedules and much more!

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 <http://www.tamiu.edu/titlevmath/>
- ◆ For information on Interactive whiteboards visit: www.smartboard.com
- ◆ Using Electronic Whiteboards in Your Classroom: Benefits-<http://www.waukesha.k12.wi.us/WIT/SmartBoard/benefits.htm>

Educator Links

- ◆ Smart Board Technologies <http://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>