

Kansas Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

Spring Conference . . . March 3, 2012

Barton County Community College, Great Bend, Kansas

Preliminary Program

8:30 – 9:00 Registration and Light Snacks

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome and Introductions

9:15 – 10:15 ***Hot Topics: Online Classes and Proctored Testing***
Panel Discussion

This topic was discussed at the Core meeting in September 2011. To help us understand this issue more we are conducting a panel discussion with online math instructors and directors of online programs.

10:15 – 10:35 ***Removing the Frustration of Varied Student Backgrounds in Algebra***
Kent Craghead, Dodge City Community College

Do some of your algebra students seem bored? Are others lost because they feel like the pace of the class is too fast for them? Are there gaps in their knowledge of algebra? The presenter will share his experience of using the computer-based content from MyMathLab/MathXL in Elementary Algebra to limit these problem areas for the diverse mathematical backgrounds of his students.

10:35 – 10:50 Break

10:50 – 12:00 ***Workshop: Liberal Arts Math/Alternative to College Algebra***
DeeAnn VanLuyck, Fort Scott Community College

As an organization we have been promoting the idea of a liberal arts math course. The time for talk is over. The goal of this session is to identify topics for a liberal arts math course and have a document to present at the next Core meeting to start the discussion.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 1:45 ***Do Your Students Understand Logarithms?***
Steve Wilson, Johnson County Community College

This presentation will take a critical look at how we teach logarithms, and whether students are learning any of the basic concepts behind logarithms. The presenter will share his observations and data, engage the audience in sharing observations from their classrooms, and make some suggestions for improvements.

1:45 – 2:30

Pre-Assignments – What are they? Why would I want to use them?

Leesa Pohl, Donnelly College, Kansas City, KS

Feeling stressed out trying to cover all the material you need to? Tired of spending all your class time covering the material the students should already know? Find out what a pre-assignment is, and what I have learned over the last two years of using them in class to help me solve these two problems. We'll also discuss benefits and drawbacks of using them, and have time for questions.

2:30 – 2:45

Break

2:45 – 3:30

Mathematical Voyage

Carol L. Tracy, Highland Community College

The Mathematical Voyage by The Dimensions Program was a NFS funded grant which produced projects 6 (series of 4 – 5 laboratories); each lab could be read and presented in 7 minutes. Each series of labs present a building story of a project that used math and dimensional geometry. The purposes of the Mathematical Voyage are to increase students' leaning of dimensional geometry and to increase interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields. The presentation will include a description of the Pedagogical and Teaching Strategies, introduction to the abstracts and projects, and a site testers experience with implementing a project in the classroom.

3:30 – 4:15

Using Excel Spreadsheets to Explore and Visualize Mathematical Problems

Chris Imm, Johnson County Community College

Textbook problems can be overwhelming or too abstract for students to visualize. A spreadsheet such as Microsoft Excel may be used to explore, visualize and conjecture solutions to mathematical problems and models. I will share spreadsheets I have developed which are used to engage the student and simplify some of the more difficult and abstract problems with the hope for discussion. These problems target the Calculus sequence and Differential Equations.

4:15 – 4:45

KAMATYC Business Meeting

Lodging

KAMATYC has reserved rooms with the **Highland Hotel and Convention Center, 3017 10th Street, Great Bend, KS**. Call the **toll free reservation number** (direct to the Hotel) **1-866-212-7122**, specify the room block name, **KAMATYC**, and make your reservation. The discounted rate is **\$59 plus tax (1-4pp no extra person charge)** and the **release date** for the room block is **February 17, 2012**.