



Math/CTE Partnership Institute: Building Partnerships for Increasing Opportunities in Math

Through a Washington State Transition Mathematics Project grant, the Washington State Tech Prep Program and a grant from the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, Pierce County Careers Connection has created the Math/CTE Partnership Institute: a series of four workshops for teams of mathematics and Career and Technical Education teachers. The workshops support increasing basic skills and academic achievement in mathematics, as well as the development of applied skills and critical thinking. Through intentional partnership-building between math and Career and Technical Education teachers, and the development of cross-discipline lesson plans and courses, this work encourage the introduction of applied math skills into traditional math classrooms, and the enhancement of rigorous mathematics in technical education classrooms.

The Math/CTE Partnership Institute is based on the premises that:

- one of the best ways to illustrate the relevance of math and communicate math expectations to students, is to enhance math in applied disciplines
- contextual learning, as exemplified by Career and Technical Education programs, benefits all students and is critical for at-risk students who are not succeeding in traditional math classes
- educators will need to work together to align teaching practices to the new Washington State mathematics standards and high school graduation requirements

Washington Governor Christine Gregoire endorsed the workshop series as a means of supporting students through a focus on math applications and learning across disciplines.

At the workshops, teams of educators have identified and begun implementing cross-discipline math teaching and learning plans for their school or district. Local efforts will be supported by Pierce County Careers Connection and its partners in the Math/CTE Partnership Planning Committee through connecting teams to state and national resources and information; connecting teams to post-secondary education partners and industry partners who can contribute to math teaching and learning; and, by facilitating, monitoring, and documenting the work of the teams.

Results of formative evaluation indicate the workshops succeed in helping educators build cross-discipline partnerships, identify ways of integrating math into CTE courses, and in the value of the College Readiness Standards in bridging math and CTE. Between the start of the workshop and the end of the April workshop:

- There was a 19% increase in the number of educators who identified themselves as having an understanding of the other discipline (math educators understanding CTE and CTE educators understanding math teaching)
- There was a 23% increase in the number of educators who understood how the College Readiness Standards were meaningful in the classroom and in Math/CTE partnerships

Math/CTE Partnership Project: A Broad Partnership

Planning Committee:

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Bill Moore, SBCTC
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Joyce Carroll, College Credits and Careers Network
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Linda Drake, Pierce County Careers Connection
Jim Adams, Pierce County Careers Connection
Jo Jacobson, Pierce County Careers Connection

Facilitators: Heather Winfrey; Terryll Bailey, the Allison Group



Participants:

Over all, 139 educators participated in at least one workshop, representing 18 school district. Geographically, participants came from a large area, including King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap, Thurston, Lewis, Grays Harbor, and Mason counties.

In addition, guest administrators, agency representatives, industry representatives and planning committee members attended workshops.

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