NSF funds 5 year grant at Lehman College

Background

This program is funded by the National Science Foundation Math and Science Partnership Program for five years (2008-2014). Participating teachers engage in a three year program: meeting once a week (Weds 4-7pm) during fall and spring semesters, and meeting for three intensive weeks in July at Lehman College. Teachers will engage in professional development and education research at their schools and attend annual one day conferences at Lehman College.

At Lehman College's Math Teacher Transformation Institute (MTTI), Bronx public high school and junior high school mathematics teachers come together with faculty at Lehman College to build their leadership skills by enhancing their knowledge of mathematics, mathematical research, education research, pedagogy and the assessment of their students' preparation for technical careers.

Spring 2009

During the Spring 2009 semester teachers had the opportunity to take either MAT 631 (Views of Geometry) or MAT 670 (Fundamentals of Math).

Geometry: Classical Euclidean Geometry using postulates and axioms is combined with a more modern transformation perspective in a course tailored to provide teachers with an in depth understanding of the geometry in New York State’s new mathematics curriculum.

Foundations: What are the objects of mathematics? How are mathematical statements proved, or disproved? This course examines fundamental material and techniques in mathematics, with an emphasis on solving equations in number systems and related notions.
Advisory Board Meeting

MTTI’s first Advisory Board meeting took place on March 31, 2009. Attendees included members of the Lehman faculty, the Institute for Literacy Studies, faculty from other CUNY campuses and representatives from the NYC public schools.

After a light dinner, introductions and updates on the program, we moved on to the major work of the evening. The members were asked to share their thoughts about and suggestions for the work we are doing in the MTTI program. Initially, we broke into two groups to discuss, “What are the causal influences on student achievement and what challenges do these influences present?”

When we reconvened a representative from each group presented a summary of their groups’ discussion. Finally, as a whole group we addressed the question, “Given MTTI’s focus on teacher leadership, how can we meet these challenges?”

The conversation was lively and the exchange of ideas and viewpoints was at times quite animated. The suggestions offered were thoughtful and will assist the Project Leadership Team in making their decisions about the policies and implementation of the MTTI program as it moves into its second year.