SANTA ANA COLLEGE

PART III: SAC Conference Summary

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Date: November 9-12, 2017

Conference Title: Have a Prime Time - 43rd Annual AMATYC Conference

Conference Sponsoring Organization: AMATYC

Conference Description
The annual AMATYC conference is a great opportunity for quality professional development. Math teaches at 2-year colleges around the nation gather here to meet, network, collaborate, as well as to discuss the most up-to-date topics in math education including technology, pedagogy, and curriculum.
Summary – One Full Page: Please describe the benefits to Student Success & Equity that you gained by participating in this event. How will you disseminate/share this information with your SAC colleagues?
This was my third time attending AMATYC, and as with the previous conferences, I return to the classroom feeling refreshed and excited to try some of the many things I have learned from my colleagues around the nation. A good portion of the sessions that I attended were centered around classroom activities and how to increase student engagement and their retention of th course material. In one session, the presenter shared how he used common everyday objects to help calculus concepts come to life. I was excited to see how a simple toy train-track and a toy car with a pencil strapped on top could become a lively example to demonstrate the concept of tangent lines to a curve; and you can bet that the next time I teach calculus, I'm bringing in train tracks and Hot-Wheels to the classroom! In another session, the presenter shared how she gave 4 different representations of functions (graphical, numerical algebraic function, and real-world description) and students would have to work in groups to match the four different representations of each problem, which I thought would make a very neat review activity at the end of a chapter. I am planning to incorporate that activity into my Math 083 and Math 084 classes, and maybe even my Math 140 class. I also attended a session on how to offer support to on-line students through Web Conferencing, using screen-share softwares and a tablet and/or document camera. Through discussions with people I've met, I've also collected a few ideas for meaning on-line discussion topics in a Math course. Overall, there are many things I have learned that I believe will contribute to the success of a diverse group of learners. I am optimistic that these techniques will help to make Math more tangible for students who may otherwise not be able to grasp the abstract concepts. I've shared many ideas with some of my colleagues at SAC in passing conversations; but I believe we will have a debrief at our department meeting where all conference attendees will share their take-aways from this wonderful conference.