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AMATYC NEWS℠

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Inside This Issue

Get Your Philly Fix: History, Soft Pretzels, and Mathematics in 2026!

by Celisa Counterman, Local Events Coordinator

In 2026, as the United States marks its 250th anniversary, AMATYC will gather in the nation's birthplace for a conference filled with history, inspiration, and professional collaboration. The AMATYC 2026 Annual Conference, November 19–22, will embrace the theme "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Mathematics," connecting the country's founding ideals with the power of mathematics to drive opportunity and innovation.

Philadelphia is the perfect setting for such a theme. Just steps from the conference venue, attendees can visit Independence Hall, view the Liberty Bell, or walk the same streets Benjamin Franklin once roamed–streets shaped by a spirit of inquiry and problem-solving that resonates with math educators today.

But Philadelphia offers far more than iconic landmarks. It is a city known for its passion, diversity, and unmistakable energy. Sports fans will feel right at home in a place where loyalty runs deep, from the electric enthusiasm of Eagles fans to the dedicated supporters of the Flyers, Phillies, and 76ers. Whether catching a game or simply soaking in the atmosphere, visitors can expect excitement at every turn.

Food lovers will also be in their element. Philadelphia's culinary scene ranges from classic cheesesteaks and soft pretzels to acclaimed restaurants and global cuisine. Reading Terminal Market–one of the country's oldest public markets and just steps from your hotel–offers everything from Amish specialties to international street food. Nearby Chinatown provides authentic dining, bakeries, tea shops, and vibrant cultural experiences, perfect for a break between sessions.

The city's arts and entertainment scene is equally inviting. Attendees can explore the world-class Philadelphia Museum of Art, admire the thousands of murals that create the city's open-air gallery, or take in a show along the Avenue of the Arts. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the Schuylkill River Trail or Fairmount Park for a walk, bike ride, or moment of quiet.

With its blend of historic significance, cultural richness, and the special backdrop of the nation's semiquincentennial, AMATYC 2026 promises to be an unforgettable experience. It will celebrate mathematics, community, and the enduring ideals of life and liberty–all in the city where those ideals first took root. Mark your calendars for November 19–22, 2026.

Philadelphia is ready to welcome AMATYC with open arms, great food, deep history, and endless inspiration. For more details, visit www.visitphilly.com.

President's House and Independence Hall
Photo by Paul Loftland for the PHLCVB

Teaching Excellence Endowment Campaign

by Anne and David Dudley

Ready to join something truly special?

The AMATYC Foundation is working to endow the Teaching Excellence Award, which was presented this year in Reno to four outstanding faculty members: Kerri Bentjen, Kim Granger, Myrta Groeneveld, and Chris Oehrlein. Your donation is essential to establishing this endowment and ensuring its long-term impact.

As former TE Award recipients–David in 1997 and Anne in 2007–we were inspired to create an endowment to support this award. We have also committed to matching every dollar you contribute, up to $25,000, to amplify your impact and help build a lasting foundation for the Teaching Excellence Award.

During the Reno conference, AMATYC members contributed more than $15,000. With matching funds, the endowment now exceeds $30,000. We are nearing the $50,000 goal needed to fully endow the award. Please take a moment to make a donation today.

To celebrate the spirit of mentorship and excellence, the AMATYC website features a special page honoring influential educators. With a donation of $50 or more, you may add the name and institution of a teacher who shaped your journey–someone who inspired, challenged, or supported you in ways that still matter. This tribute wall is more than a list; it is a living archive of gratitude and legacy, meant to spark reflection and connection across our teaching community.

Visit the AMATYC Foundation donation page to contribute and honor an educator who made a difference. And don't feel limited to the $50 threshold. Remember, the more you give, the more we give. The link to nominate your honoree will be included in your receipt.

AMATYC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are deductible to the extent allowable by law.

President's Message

Navigating Change, Embracing Opportunity: A New Era for AMATYC

Eddie Tchertchian

Los Angeles Pierce College • Woodland Hills, CA

It is an honor and a joy to write to you as the newly installed President of AMATYC. As I begin this role, I am struck by the tremendous energy within our organization and the broader landscape of mathematics education. We find ourselves at a pivotal moment–one filled with both challenges and remarkable opportunities.

A Time of Transformation

Change has always been part of education, but the pace and scale we are experiencing today feel unprecedented. Mathematics education is evolving in ways we could not have imagined even a few years ago. New pedagogical approaches are reshaping student engagement, equity and access are central to our conversations, and technology–especially artificial intelligence–is opening pathways we are only beginning to understand.

The excitement was evident at our recent conference in Reno. Conversations buzzed around AI integration: How can these tools enhance learning? What does problem-solving mean when AI can solve problems? How do we uphold academic integrity while embracing innovation? These are not simple questions, but they are the right questions–and, importantly, we are tackling them together.

Facing Realities with Optimism

It is also important to acknowledge the financial pressures facing our organization. Like many professional associations, AMATYC must navigate budget constraints that call for thoughtful stewardship. But I am confident in this community. AMATYC has always risen to challenges with creativity and collaboration. Our financial sustainability is about more than balancing numbers–it is about ensuring that AMATYC continues to serve as a vital network for support, innovation, and professional development.

Your Executive Board is already working on initiatives to strengthen our financial foundation while expanding member value. We are exploring partnerships, reimagining professional development, and developing new ways to connect our community across distances and campuses.

The Power of Connection

What excites me most about AMATYC's future is the strength of our connections. In an era when technology can lead to isolation, the desire for meaningful professional relationships has never been stronger. Our conferences remain vibrant spaces where ideas flourish and friendships form. Our online platforms continue to evolve, making collaboration and support accessible year-round.

Whether you are integrating AI tools like ChatGPT, redesigning developmental pathways, exploring alternative grading, or simply seeking colleagues who understand the joys and challenges of teaching at a two-year college–AMATYC is your professional home.

Looking Ahead: A New Board and a Renewed Vision

I am energized by the work ahead. We have important tasks before us, but we also have extraordinary assets: a committed membership, strong leadership, a history of innovation, and a shared dedication to student success.

Our new Executive Board embodies this momentum. With eight new members joining this year, we are already benefiting from their perspectives and enthusiasm. This is not "business as usual." This board is forward-thinking, collaborative, and deeply committed to strengthening AMATYC.

Our priorities are clear. We are focusing on growing membership, enhancing the value of AMATYC for every two-year mathematics educator, stabilizing our financial position, and reshaping our programs and structures to meet the evolving needs of our members and their students. Committees are forming, conversations are underway, and concrete planning has already begun. The energy is inspiring, and I believe the impact will be evident throughout the year.

While the path ahead will bring challenges, I have never been more optimistic about our direction. Together, we will navigate uncertainties, celebrate accomplishments, and continue the work that defines us: transforming lives through mathematics education.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. I look forward to all we will accomplish together.

The 2026–2027 AMATYC Executive Board

by Eddie Tchertchian, President

As a result of the AMATYC elections held in September 2025, eight new members have joined the AMATYC Executive Board, and one current member has moved into a new position.

- Chris Oehrlein, Oklahoma City CC (OK), is the new President-Elect. Chris currently serves as President of OKMATYC and as AMATYC's Position Statement Editor. He is also a recipient of the 2025 AMATYC Teaching Excellence Award.
- Nikita Patterson, Perimeter College–Georgia State University (GA), is the new Secretary. Nikita played a key role as the Local Events Coordinator for the 50th Anniversary AMATYC Conference in Atlanta.
- Chris Yuen, SUNY Buffalo (NY), is the new Northeast Vice President. Chris is a former president of NYSMATYC and its immediate past president, and he has served multiple terms as a Northeast Delegate for AMATYC.
- Jonathan Weisbrod, Rowan College at Burlington County (NJ), is the new Mid-Atlantic Vice President. Jonathan is transitioning into this role after serving as Secretary on the 2024–2025 Executive Board.
- Kim Walters, Mississippi State University (MS), is the new Southeast Vice President. Kim has presented widely at local and national conferences and previously served as President of the Mississippi Collegiate Mathematical Association.
- Mike Caparula, Kankakee CC (IL), is the new Midwest Vice President. A long-standing member of the Math Intensive ANet and frequent AMATYC presenter, Mike also served on the Local Events Committee for the 2019 AMATYC Annual Conference in Milwaukee.
- Johanna Debrecht, Red Rocks CC (CO), is the new Central Vice President. Johanna has been Editor of the MathAMATYC Educator since 2018 and previously served as Production Manager for six issues.
- Lori Holdren, American College of Healthcare Sciences (OR), is the new Northwest Vice President. She has presented multiple times at ORMATYC and AMATYC conferences and has coordinated traveling workshops.
- Ben Moulton, Utah Valley University (UT), is the new West Vice President. Ben has served UMATYC as Secretary, President, and Historian, and has contributed to several AMATYC committees including Nominations and the Math Excellence Award Committee. He has authored multiple articles for the MathAMATYC Educator.

These new board members will serve alongside continuing members: Eddie Tchertchian, President, Los Angeles Pierce College (CA); George Hurlburt, Past President, Corning CC (NY); Kyle Kundomal, Treasurer, Collin College (TX); and Jennifer Travis, Southwest Vice President, Lone Star College–North Harris (TX).

2026-2027 Executive Board

Back row (left to right): Chris Oehrlein, Ben Moulton, Jonathan Weisbrod, Lori Holdren, George Hurlburt, Kyle Kundomal, Chris Yuen, Mike Caparula, Nikita Patterson, Eddie Tchertchian,
Front row (left to right): Kim Walters, Jennifer Travis, Johanna Debrecht

Workshop to Learn How to Teach Data Science

by Kathryn Kozak

You have been considering creating a data science transfer pathway at your institution. You've identified the courses to add to the curriculum and are ready to offer them. Now the question is how to teach these classes. The courses require technology for data wrangling and visualization–such as R, Tableau, and Python–as well as tools like GitHub for version control. You may also be thinking about the pedagogical approaches needed to teach data science effectively. It can feel overwhelming to learn all of this at once.

Help is available. AMATYC received an NSF conference grant (DUE 2508047) to support professional development in technology tools and pedagogical practices for teaching data science courses. The program is called the Two-Year College Data Science Initiative (TYCDSI) 2.0. The workshop will be held June 11–13, 2026, at the College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, California. Participants will learn to:

- Develop skills to create data visualizations
- Program in R, Python, and Tableau
- Explore version control tools such as GitHub
- Discuss key attributes of a data science program
- Establish a community of practice for continued program development

Some faculty attended the TYCDSI 1.0 workshop in June 2024, and TYCDSI 2.0 was designed based on feedback from that event. This summer's workshop will support those who attended the earlier session, but participation in TYCDSI 1.0 is not required. Any two-year college faculty member interested in teaching data science courses is encouraged to apply.

The deadline to apply for the TYCDSI 2.0 workshop is Monday, March 2, 2026, by midnight. Acceptance notifications will be sent by March 30, 2026. More information, including the application link, is available on the AMATYC grant webpage at www.amatyc.org/tycdsi.

Student Mathematics League

by Matthew Pragel, Coordinator

At the 2025 AMATYC Conference, De Anza College received the Glenn Smith Memorial Award as the top overall team in the 2024–2025 Student Math League (SML) competition. The Northeast region also continued its strong performance in the Faculty Math League (FML), retaining the trophy as the top region.

Sophia Georgiakaki, Northeast Region VP;
Steve Blasberg, SML Test Developer;
Sean Saunders, 1st place FML, and Aisha Arroyo, 2nd place FML

A total of 127 teams competed in the fall round of the Student Math League contest. Looking ahead, the second round of the 2025–2026 competition will be held between Saturday, February 27, and Saturday, March 13.

Winners of the 2025 AMATYC Student Research League!!

by Vinodh Chellamuthu, Coordinator

AMATYC Student Research League

The national winners of the 8th Annual Student Research League (SRL) competition were announced at the AMATYC Annual Conference in Reno.

- **Grand Prize Winner: Santa Fe College**
  Logan Jaindl and Carlos Rinaldi-Rivera
  Faculty Mentor: Manisha Ranade
  Region: Southeast

- **2nd Place: Portland CC**
  Pragya Birla, MiKayla Kenealy, and Artem Arefev
  Faculty Mentor: Damien Adams
  Region: Northwest

- **3rd Place: Casper College**
  Madalyn Amole, Anndralyn Jones, and Dylan Mazzant
  Faculty Mentor: Kendall Jacobs
  Region: Northwest

Each of these outstanding competitors received a financial award to support their continued education at a four-year institution. Congratulations to all!

Statistics and Data Science ANet

DataFest 2026 Challenge

by Rachel Saidi, TYC DataFest Coordinator and
Rebecca Wong, ANet Chair

It's never too early to start thinking about DataFest 2026. Several colleagues have already reached out about our AMATYC-sponsored national virtual event. While the date is not yet set, it will likely be held on a weekend near the end of March 2026.

Teams consist of 2–5 students, though we have successfully placed individual students with existing teams in the past. Last year, 22 teams participated, and we hope to see even more join in 2026. The data and challenge are released on Friday evening, and the competition closes on Sunday evening. Judging occurs over the following week, with awards announced shortly thereafter.

We are always looking for volunteers to help judge the event. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me or Rebecca (emails below).

Stay tuned! Event announcements and team registration information will be posted on our ANet page in February. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

Rachel Saidi (rachel.saidi@montgomerycollege.edu)
Rebecca Wong (rebecca.wong@amatyc.org)

Mu Alpha Theta

by Mari Menard, Representative

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Mu Alpha Theta booth in the exhibit hall or attended the Mu Alpha Theta presentation at the AMATYC 2025 conference. If you missed it, you can view the presentation at https://bit.ly/MuAlphaTheta-AMATYC2025.

To learn more, visit the AMATYC Mu Alpha Theta website at www.amatyc.org/mu-alpha-theta, or email marimenard@amatyc.org with any questions or requests for information.

2025 AMATYC Teaching Excellence Award Recipients

by Eddie Tchertchian, President

The AMATYC Teaching Excellence Award, presented biennially in odd-numbered years since 1997, honors outstanding two-year college mathematics instructors with a medallion and a $500 check. More than 80 faculty members have received this distinction. For the 2025 awards, a seven-member committee reviewed ten nominations and, following AMATYC guidelines permitting up to four awards when ten applications are submitted, selected four exceptional educators: Kerri Bentjen, Kim Granger, Myrta Groeneveld, and Chris Oehrlein.

Kerri Bentjen

Kim Granger

Myrta Groeneveld

Chris Oehrlein

Kerri Bentjen of Sinclair CC is an innovative mathematics educator and Principal Investigator of a $478,000 NSF grant that developed 30 themed labs integrating robotics, Python programming, and real-world applications into College Algebra, Trigonometry, and Calculus I. She creates dynamic learning environments using Raspberry Pi robots, Jupyter notebooks, and a "thinking classroom" model centered on collaboration and problem-solving. Her ability to transform student confidence is reflected in testimonials such as one student who shared, "I hadn't been in school in over a decade and never thought I belonged in a STEM field. Kerri taught me how to study, pushed me to develop problem-solving skills, and helped me believe I belong in this field." Her excellence has been recognized through numerous awards, including the 2024 OhioMATYC Teaching Excellence Award, SOCHE Faculty Excellence Award, and Sinclair College Innovation of the Year Award.

Kim Granger, Professor of Mathematics at St. Louis CC–Wildwood, has built a two-decade career characterized by mastery-based, modularized, and student-centered instructional approaches that improve outcomes for underserved student populations. She has shown exceptional leadership as President of MOMATYC, ANet Chair for Developmental Mathematics, and through her work with the Missouri Math Pathways Taskforce. She has received the MOMATYC Excellence Award and the Missouri Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award. Students describe her as "passionate, energetic, encouraging, and simply awesome," reflecting her commitment to equity and student success.

Myrta Groeneveld, Co-Chair of the Mathematics Department at CT State Manchester since 2009, brings a powerful perspective shaped by her own journey as an immigrant from Puerto Rico and a former community college student. With degrees in Early Childhood Education and Mathematics, she has become a champion of active and inclusive learning. She leads discovery-based classrooms that foster belonging for all students and serves as Course Coordinator for College Algebra. As co-leader of the ACME initiative, she advances inclusive STEM teaching by guiding professional learning communities and leading workshops on placement, curriculum, and accessibility. Her contributions have earned numerous honors, including two College Employee Leadership Awards, the Jonathan M. Daube Award for student accessibility, the MCC Excellent Teacher Award, and STCC's Distinguished Alumni of the Year.

Chris Oehrlein of Oklahoma City CC is a nationally recognized mathematics educator with a long record of leadership and innovation. His honors include nominations for the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence 2025 Medal for Excellence and the CASE/Carnegie 2002 Oklahoma Professor of the Year, along with two NISOD Teaching Excellence Awards. He has served in major national roles, including Chair of the MAA Committee on Two-Year Colleges, AMATYC Position Statement Editor, and President of OKMATYC. His service extends to the CODEE Editorial Board, the POGIL National Meeting Strategic Planning Team, and the MAA CRAFTY Committee. Chris has led the development of a Central Oklahoma Community of Practice to promote alternative grading methods, guided multiple program reviews and Title III redesigns, and directed a three-year applied math summer academy for middle school students. Widely sought as a presenter at AMATYC, MathFest, and the Joint Math Meetings, he is praised by students for his individualized support and passion for teaching. One student writes, "His passion, innovation, and dedication to student success make a lasting impact on everyone he teaches." Chris is also AMATYC's incoming President-Elect.

AMATYC Foundation Awards

by Laura Watkins, Past President

Throughout 2025, the AMATYC Foundation focused on highlighting its support for mathematics students and faculty. We extend our sincere thanks to AMATYC members for their generous contributions during the year. Your support through initiatives such as the Anne and David Dudley Teaching Excellence Award Endowment campaign and the Dot Campaign at the conference has been invaluable.

Each year, the Foundation conducts a random drawing at the conference, including all donors from that year. For 2025, the following winners were selected:

- Region with the highest total donations: The Southwest region led the way, and Andrea Schaben of Yavapai College won a two-year AMATYC membership.
- Region with the highest percentage of members donating: The Northwest region received this distinction, and Mark Kuhlman of Casper College was awarded a one-year AMATYC membership.
- Randomly selected donor: Marcus Gunn of the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges won a full registration to the AMATYC Annual Conference in Philadelphia.

The Foundation also recognized outstanding contributions with its annual awards:

- Margie Hobbs Award: Kim Kullander of the University of Arkansas–Pulaski Technical College received the 2025 award, which includes a monetary prize to help offset travel expenses. This award honors the memory of Margie Hobbs–a long-time AMATYC member, conference coordinator, and Executive Board member–and is given to an AMATYC member presenting at the conference for the first time.
- Leila and Simon Peskoff Award:
  Natalie McGathey of Prairie State College was this year's recipient, earning a lifetime AMATYC membership. This award is presented to an AMATYC Project ACCCESS Fellow who has made significant contributions to mathematics education in the first two years of college. It is funded by Fred Peskoff in memory of his parents, Leila and Simon Peskoff.

Kim Kullander

Natalie McGathey

In addition, the Foundation awarded the Wanda Garner Presidential Student Scholarship, created to encourage students in higher education to pursue mathematics or related fields. Each recipient receives a $1,000 scholarship funded by the AMATYC Foundation. This year's recipient was:

- Ethan Pierson of Phoenix College, nominated by Frank Marfai

Adjunct Faculty Scholarship: This program awards one conference registration to an adjunct faculty member to attend the annual conference each year.

- Julie Thompson of University of North Texas-Frisco Campus was this year's recipient.

Frank Marfai (nominator) and Ethan Pierson

Julie Thompson

The AMATYC Foundation is proud to recognize excellence and support growth within the mathematics community. Congratulations to all the 2025 award recipients, and thank you to the donors who made these accomplishments possible.

Highlights of the Fall Board Meetings

by Jonathan Weisbrod, Secretary

The Fall Board Meetings began with virtual sessions in September and October, followed by several in-person days in Reno before the conference, and concluded after the Delegate Assembly in December. The Board met on September 18, October 16, November 9–11, and December 13. The following appointments were approved:

- Crystal Wiggins, Statistics & Data Science ANet Chair
- Manisha Ranade, International Mathematics ANet Chair
- Peter Keep, Mathematics Intensive ANet Chair
- Jon Anderson, Student Research League Coordinator
- April Crenshaw, AMATYC Representative to JCW (Judging, Contests, and Workshops)
- Shannon Ruth, Phoenix 2028 Local Events Coordinator
- Julie Gunkelman, Assistant Conference Coordinator
- Sherry McCormack, Innovative Teaching & Learning ANet Chair
- Ashley Majzun, Research in Math Education in Two-Year Colleges ANet Chair
- Anthony Tavares, MathAMATYC Educator Editor

The following individuals were reappointed to new terms in their current roles:

- Karen Gaines, Online Community Coordinator
- Christine Mirbaha, Placement & Assessment ANet Chair
- Ben Aschenbrenner, Equity ANet Chair
- Dana Clahane, Research and Mentoring Experiences for Students and Faculty ANet Chair
- Xianwei Van Harpen, Teacher Preparation ANet Chair
- Natalia Postrigan, Math and its Application for Careers ANet Chair

One of the most impactful actions taken was the Board's approval of a revised Ownership Chapter for IMPACT, which was then advanced to and approved by the Delegate Assembly.

The Board also discussed plans for the coming years to maintain financial responsibility in light of a post-Covid decline in membership. These discussions included a possible reorganization of the Executive Board and digitizing publications such as AMATYC News and the MathAMATYC Educator.

Future AMATYC Conferences

2026	Philadelphia, PA	November 19–22
2027	Spokane, WA	November 11–14
2028	Phoenix, AZ	November 9–12

For additional information, contact the AMATYC Office at amatyc@amatyc.org.

Five Minutes, Big Ideas: IGNITE Shines in Reno

by Jennifer Ackerman

The IGNITE event has grown so much that this year it was held in the main ballroom. Each presenter shared their ideas in this fun, fast-paced format, where twenty slides automatically advanced every 15 seconds, giving each speaker exactly five minutes to showcase their passion. As tradition dictates, Jerry Tuttle opened the event with an entertaining talk on The Mathematics of Taylor Swift. Attendees also enjoyed ideas for self-care and encouragement to support student research. Luke Walsh prompted us to reflect on the importance of unlearning–be sure to ask him about it if you missed the conference. The event concluded with a bonus presentation from Pat Riley titled A Chance Encounter on the Way to Reno.

Kudos to Eddie Tchertchian once again for organizing such a successful event. IGNITE remains a wonderful way to meet new colleagues or reconnect with familiar faces. And it's never too early to consider presenting in Philadelphia as we celebrate life, liberty, and the pursuit of mathematics!

Spotlight on the 2025 AMATYC Regional Scholarship Recipients

Here are a few of the 2025 AMATYC Regional Scholarship winners. The scholarship provides recipients with discounted conference registration. Winners were selected randomly within each region as well as from at-large applicants.

Additional winners not pictured include Carol Howard, Rebecca Ramos, Jose (Daniel) Regalado, Christa Solheid, and Jennifer Mallett.

If you are interested in contributing to the AMATYC Regional Scholarship program, visit www.amatyc.org/donate. For questions, contact your Regional Vice President or the AMATYC Office at amatyc@amatyc.org.

Back row (left to right): Christina Elliot, Sarah Sponholz, Anne Vance, Mary LeBrun, Kimberly Walters, and Dennis Runde
Front row (left to right): Penny Morris, Katherine Hiebert-Brumley, and Lori Holdren

Presenters Take Center Stage at The Biggest Little Math Conference in the World

Thank you to all presenters at the 51st AMATYC Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. Your outstanding sessions and dedication once again demonstrated why the AMATYC Conference is the premier destination for exploring a wide range of current topics in mathematics education. The conference thrives because you generously share your expertise–supporting active learning, strengthening student success, and introducing new, engaging ideas for teaching in the first two years of college.

At the Closing Session on Sunday morning, President George Hurlburt highlighted many ways to stay involved with AMATYC throughout the year, including participating in Summer Spark in 2026, joining an Academic Network (ANet), submitting an article to the MathMATYC Educator, applying to Project ACCCESS, or serving in one of the open volunteer positions.

Participants were also invited to share what they enjoyed most about the conference and one idea they planned to bring back to their classrooms. Many expressed appreciation for the high-quality presentations, the inclusive and welcoming atmosphere, and their renewed motivation to stay active within AMATYC. Highlights included reconnecting with colleagues, collaborating on effective teaching practices, learning about current research, and exploring topics such as the use of artificial intelligence, reducing testing anxiety, and maximizing the learning environment.

Now we look ahead to next year's conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the 52nd AMATYC Annual Conference. Whether you're planning to visit the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, explore the Old City historic district, or climb the Rocky Steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia offers endless opportunities to learn and explore. With the theme "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Mathematics," mark your calendars for November 19–22, 2026. We look forward to seeing you–and learning with you–next year in Philadelphia.

Project ACCCESS – the Biggest Little Cohorts in Reno!

by Lisa Feinman, Coordinator

This year, 14 new Fellows began their Project ACCCESS journey, and 16 Fellows completed their Fellowship. These groups were big on ideas and project presentations. Together, they represented faculty from 18 states and every region except the Northeast. This year, group projects were reintroduced and presented during a special themed session on Friday.

A heartfelt thank-you to all our presenters: Rob Eby*, Marty Kellum*, Chris Oehrlein, Kara Raymond, Elizabeth Weaver, Erin Wenner, Matthew Lee*, and Emily Whittington*. Special appreciation also goes to Lorisha Riley, Program Assistant Extraordinaire, and Vicki Todd, Program Assistant Maestra. (*Project ACCCESS Alumni)

If you will be early in your mathematics teaching career during the 2026–2027 academic year, or if you would benefit from a supportive community and targeted professional development, please consider applying for Cohort 22 of AMATYC Project ACCCESS. The cohort will meet for the first time at the 2026 AMATYC Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Visit www.amatyc.org/project-acccess for details.

Cohort 20

All rows are left to right.
Back row: Reena Tandon, Melvin Cacayorin, Ramiro Oscar Garcia, Cory Wilson.
Next row: Melida Garcia, Stuart Hamilton, Mona Kamal.
Next row: Kaiwen Amrein, Deepa Ramakrishnan, Cole Regnery.
Next row: Cristy Hanlon, Rachel Friedman, Noah Weiss.
Front row: Divya Ajinth, Becca Roberts, Nicole Conway.

Cohort 21

All rows are left to right.
Back row: Maud Comboul, Kalpana Kanwar.
Next row: Telashay Swope-Farr, Chase Tuttle, Ali Shoumer, Sangharsha Bhatta.
Next row: Kristy Gilmore, Audrey Adelson, William Rueda-Prada.
Next row: Susan Georgson, Danielle Bramall.
Front row: Jenna Arlie, Jonathan Foresee, Allison Stacey.

AMATYC 2026
Calendar of Events

Check the AMATYC website, www.amatyc.org, for information on conferences and meetings from other organizations.

February 13: **39th Annual GMATYC/MECS Conference,** GSU Perimeter College, Clarkston, GA. Contact: Rosahn Bhattarai, mathconference@gsu.edu

February 20-21: **FTYCMA/MAA Florida Joint Annual Meeting,** Florida State College-Bradenton Campus, Bradenton, FL.
Website: https://ftycma.scf.edu/html/callscf_MS.htm

February 20-21: **KYMATYC Annual Conference,** Embassy Suites, Bowling Green, KY.
Website: http://ky.matyc.org/conference.html

February 27-28: **24th Annual TMATYC Conference,** Columbia State CC-Williamson Campus, Franklin, TN.
Website: www.tmatyc.org

February 27-28: **SOCAMATYC Annual Meeting,** Tri-County Tech College, Pendleton, SC. Contact: Jennifer Aull, jenniferwaull@midlandstech.edu

March 27: **OhioMATYC Spring Meeting,** Sinclair CC-Centerville Campus, Centerville. OH.
Website: www.ohiomatyc.org/index.php/meetings-menulink/meeting-information-menulink

March 27–28: **ArizMATYC/MAA Southwestern Section Joint Conference,** Paradise Valley CC, Phoenix, AZ.
Website: https://arizmatyc.org

March 27–28: **KAMATYC/KS-MAA Annual Conference,** Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS.
Website: www.ka.matyc.org

April 9-11: **IMACC Annual Conference,** Allerton Park & Retreat Center, Monticello, IL.
Contact: Ellen Field, ellenfield05@gmail.com

April 10: **ColoMATYC Annual Conference,** Aims CC, Fort Lupton, CO.
Website: www.colo.matyc.org

April 11: **INMATYC Annual Conference,** Aims CC, Fort Lupton, CO.
Website: www.colo.matyc.org

April 16-18: **MOMATYC Annual Conference,** Mineral Area CC, Park Hills, MO.
Website: www.momatyc.org

April 17: **NEBMATYC Annual Conference,** Northeast CC, Norfolk, NE.
Website: www.nebmatyc.matyc.org

April 17-18: **WYMATYC Annual Conference,** Eastern Wyoming College, Torrington, WY.
Contact: Luke Audette, laudette@ewc.wy.edu

April 24-25: **MinnMATYC Spring Conference,** DECC, Duluth, MN.
Website: www.minnmatyc.org

April 24-25: **38th NMMATYC Conference,** El Paso CC, El Paso, TX.
Website: https://sites.google.com/nmmatyc.com/web/conference?pli=1

April 24-25: **AMATYC Northeast Regional Conference 2026,** The Gideon Putnam, Saratoga Springs, NY.
Website: https://nysmatyc.org/2026-conference-april-24-25

May 22: **MMATYC Annual Conference,** Cecil College, North East, MD.
Website: www.mmatyc.org

November 19–22: **52nd AMATYC Annual Conference,** Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Philadelphia, PA.
Contact: AMATYC Office, amatyc@amatyc.org

Add or update affiliate conference information at www.amatyc.org/affiliate-conferences.

Compassion, Connection, and Humanization

Equity ANet Reflections

by Benjamin Aschenbrenner, Chair

Within the Equity Academic Network, we've been talking a lot about compassion, connection, and humanization–not just as abstract ideals, but as essential mechanisms for supporting one another in challenging times. Regardless of one's political perspective, I hope this message resonates.

One of the ongoing challenges is how to translate those words into action. What does compassion look like in practice? How do we demonstrate empathy toward students while still holding them accountable, offering guidance, and helping them grow toward their stated goals?

I've been reflecting on these questions, particularly in the context of what we often label as "bad behavior." For instance, when a student arrives late to class, I may allow them in, but I'll also acknowledge that their lateness carries a cost–for both them and the class as a whole. That's one small way to balance compassion with accountability.

How do we humanize our students without losing sight of the expectations they need to meet to succeed in our courses? When a student's external obligations prevent them from devoting the necessary time to their studies–or at least when they haven't yet done so–what language can we use to express both empathy for their complex lives and clarity about the non-negotiable outcomes of the course?

How can we build flexibility into our classroom policies so that minor deviations from "the script" don't derail students entirely? At the same time, are we providing enough scaffolding and structure for students who are still developing the skills and habits they need to succeed–especially those who may be under-prepared?

I believe that connection is often the foundation for transformation. While I don't have data to back that up, it reflects both my experience and my values. In the context of education, human connection can be a powerful force in helping students overcome significant barriers and accomplish their goals. Of course, I also believe the world should change–dramatically–so that students don't face such overwhelming barriers in the first place. But in the world we currently inhabit, those barriers are real, especially for many of our most vulnerable students.

Helping students succeed doesn't mean making everything easier for them. That approach risks doing a disservice to both the students and our institutions. Instead, we can support success by fostering deeper connections–with other students, with faculty, and with the institution as a whole.These are the kinds of conversations we should be having within our departments and professional organizations. What does compassion look like in our policies? How do we support student agency while maintaining academic rigor? How do we center humanization without compromising equity?

And finally, let's remember that compassion, connection, and humanization apply to our professional environments as well. Let's extend these principles to our colleagues, our institutions, and ourselves. Everyone is doing the best they can–and everyone can do better. That might just be a mantra worth repeating, especially when a challenge arises–or when we need to give ourselves a little grace.

Disclaimer: The views and experiences expressed in this article is solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of AMATYC.

Grants Update: Building Momentum with Funded Projects

by Megan Breit-Goodwin, AMATYC Grants Coordinator

Funded projects often build on prior initiatives, creating a continuum of innovation that amplifies impact. By leveraging lessons learned, existing networks, and proven strategies, new projects can scale successful interventions and respond to emerging challenges. The relationship between Teaching for PROWESS (NSF# 2013493, 2013232, 2012962, 2013550) and Advancing Community College Teaching, Innovations to Overhaul Norms (ACCTION) (NSF# 2439731, 2439732) illustrates this progression, where one project's foundational work informs the next.

Teaching for PROWESS drives systemic instructional change in community college mathematics, guided by AMATYC's IMPACT: Improving Mathematical Prowess and College Teaching framework. Learn more at https://teachingforprowess.com. Eight colleges partnered with Teaching for PROWESS to implement active learning, deep engagement, student inter-action, and evidence-based practices at both classroom and departmental levels. Randolph CC was among these partners.

ACCTION, led by Carrie Lineberry (Randolph CC) and April Ström (Chandler-Gilbert CC) with co-PIs Scott Adamson and Frank Cox, grew directly from PROWESS's systemic-change model and emphasis on active learning. While PROWESS built capacity and supported departmental transformation, ACCTION focuses on creating nationally accessible resources and professional development. Both projects share the vision of improving student success through inclusive, evidence-based teaching, with ACCTION scaling innovations developed through PROWESS.

Project ACCTION invites mathematics educators to collaborate in the following ways:

- Research participants: The project will investigate the transition from lecture to active learning. If you are an instructor–new to active learning or experienced–who is navigating this transition, the team would like to hear from you.
- Documentary insights: A documentary film will be created to support the shift from lecture to active learning. If you have researched this transition or have key insights on what instructors need to know, this is a meaningful way to contribute.
- OER pilot (2027): New OER materials for Precalculus Algebra (or College Algebra) courses will be piloted. The project team is building a list of interested pilot instructors now for implementation in 2027.
- Online professional development (2028): A comprehensive online professional development program will be developed for nationwide dissemination, scheduled to launch in 2028.

Please reach out if you are interested in future participation. If you would like to learn more about the ACCTION project and ways colleges can engage in the work, contact Carrie Lineberry at acction@acction.org.

AMATYC is proud to serve as grant administrator for PROWESS and collaborator for ACCTION. To discuss project ideas or partnership opportunities with AMATYC, email Megan Breit-Goodwin at grants@amatyc.org

Mathematics Intensive ANet

by Robert Cappetta, Chair

The Mathematics Intensive Academic Network offered an outstanding selection of activities at the recent AMATYC conference in Reno, Nevada. The program began with a themed session titled "Innovations in Math-Intensive Courses." Highlights included strategies for strengthening students' reading and writing in advanced mathematics, techniques for improving proof-writing skills in calculus, interactive tools for proving trigonometric identities, technology for visualizing curl in a vector field, approaches for using a classic triangle problem to build calculus concepts, and an accessible demonstration of Euler's famous Basel problem. These presentations were very well attended, clearly demonstrating strong interest in supporting instructors who teach precalculus, calculus, and higher-level courses in the first two years of college.

One of the primary goals of the Mathematics Intensive ANet is to encourage proposals focused on these courses. The Reno conference featured presentations that analyzed active learning, enhanced visualization, project-based learning, and student-driven research investigations. Additional talks explored alternate teaching and learning strategies such as mastery-based grading, improved online homework, assessment through oral exams, and lessons built around real data. Other sessions highlighted favorite calculus questions, experimental calculus with structured support, activities that build technical writing skills, and approaches for better scaffolding student learning. The number of presentations centered on precalculus and calculus was exceptional. I sincerely hope that future conferences will include more sessions focused on differential equations, linear algebra, and discrete mathematics.

I am pleased to say that AMATYC has approved a math intensive themed session titled "Creativity in Math Intensive Courses." This will include six fifteen-minute presentations that will be delivered in the Thursday morning session. This will be an excellent way to kick off the Philadelphia conference.

The Mathematics Intensive ANet held a sharing session that allowed participants with similar interests to discuss the challenges of teaching specific courses. One group focused on precalculus and differential calculus, particularly the persistent issue of student preparation. A second group examined the teaching and learning of integral calculus and infinite series. A third group discussed multivariate calculus and differential equations. A fourth group considered linear algebra and discrete mathematics.

A common recommendation that emerged across several groups was the desire for more presentations addressing "how best to teach certain topics." I plan to submit a proposal on effective approaches to teaching vector calculus, especially since I remember struggling with these concepts the first time I encountered them.

The Mathematics Intensive Group also met on Saturday afternoon to conclude this year's business and set the agenda for the next. I am pleased to report that we voted to change our name to the "Precalculus and Beyond ANet," a title that more clearly reflects our mission. We also submitted a position paper to the AMATYC Board outlining the importance of precalculus and recommending ways the course should evolve to better meet the needs of today's students.

Our final item of business was the introduction of the new chair. After seven years in this role, I am stepping down, and I am delighted to announce that Peter Keep, from Moraine Valley CC in the Chicago suburbs, will be taking over. He is an outstanding leader, and I am thrilled that he has agreed to take on this important responsibility.

As I complete my term, I want to express my sincere thanks to my co-leaders, Michael Caparula and Eric Hutchinson, whose assistance with planning agendas and facilitating sharing sessions has been invaluable. I also want to thank the many active members who have participated in Zoom meetings, IMPACT Live discussions, and AMATYC conference sessions. Our group has been a model of collegiality, and it has been my pleasure to serve alongside you.

If you teach precalculus, calculus, differential equations, linear algebra, or discrete mathematics, I encourage you to attend the next AMATYC conference in Philadelphia. You'll find sessions and resources that can support your teaching and benefit your students. I'll be there as well, and I look forward to meeting you.

Mathematics Pathways ANet

by Meghan Carlson, Chair

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Mathematics Pathways ANet exchange in Reno! It was wonderful to finally see the faces of the people we usually only communicate with by email.

The Mathematics Pathways ANet had a strong presence this year as one of the five themed sessions that kicked off the AMATYC Annual Conference in Reno. My thanks to all who contributed to our themed session, "Curriculum and Instruction in Mathematics Pathways." If you attended Reno, you can download a PDF of our session materials through the Whova app or desktop site. If you were unable to attend, email me at meghan.carlson@amatyc.org and I will be happy to send you the PDFs.

There is an important update regarding the future of several ANets, including our own. As of December 31, 2025, the following ANets will be discontinued:

- Adjunct Faculty Issues
- Developmental Mathematics
- Division/Department Leadership
- Mathematics Pathways

This means the Mathematics Pathways ANet will conclude after this year. Beginning in 2026, the remaining ANets will be restructured to ensure the goals of the Pathways ANet continue to be supported. The following ANets will fall under the Pathways umbrella starting next year:

Pathways ANets

- Math Intensive
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Statistics and Data Science
- Teacher Preparation
- Math for Applications and Careers

If you are not already participating in one or more of these ANets, I encourage you to join next year. When you do, please continue supporting the development of recommendations related to mathematics pathways. Consider how the goals of the Mathematics Pathways ANet can align with the mission of your new ANet. You can find the list of ANet goals on the "AMATYC Networks and Committees" page of the AMATYC website.

It has been an honor to serve as chair of this ANet over the past year. Although our time together has been brief, I look forward to seeing you in the other ANets moving forward.

RMESF ANet: Growing Research and Mentoring Communities in Two-Year Colleges

by Dana Clahane, Chair

AMATYC launched the Research and Mentoring Experiences for Students and Faculty (RMESF) ANet in 2024 to support innovation and creativity in mathematics and to expand engagement among students and faculty at two-year colleges. The RMESF ANet aims to build pathways for participants to explore the frontiers of mathematical sciences by developing local, regional, and national communities focused on two-year college math research.

On the third Friday of each month, the ANet hosts the Math Exploration Research Forums (MERFs) on Zoom from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm Pacific Time. Faculty and students interested in attending, presenting, or joining the ANet can learn more at: www.tinyurl.com/3bjvupet

At the September MERF, we highlighted a way for faculty and students to collaborate on introductory research papers addressing open problems. We discussed a student's mini-thesis on the Erdös–Strauss Conjecture and demonstrated collaborative LaTeX editing.

Fall MERF presenters included:

- Madison Ell, former Fullerton College student and now a Statistics Ph.D. student at Texas A&M University, who presented "Improving Bayesian methods for locating breakpoints in time series data" (October 2025).
- Nevada State University faculty member Sungjoo Moon's student researchers–Nigel Sherfield, Mary Giles (joint work with Ryllie Pate and Rose Reasons), and Carlos Chavez–who presented projects applying dynamical systems to classroom learning measurement, disease periodicity, and algae growth for sustainability (November 2025).

Winter MERF presenters were:

- December 2025: Aaron Matthews, former Fullerton College student and now a California State University Fullerton faculty member and software engineer.
- January 2026: Linn-Benton CC students mentored by Nicole Seaders, in partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics.
- February 2026: Axel Brandt (John Carroll University), presenting combinatorics research conducted with undergraduate collaborators.

It was wonderful to see eighteen faculty members attend both the RMESF ANet Exchange Meeting and the ANet's first conference session at the November 2025 AMATYC Conference in Reno. Special thanks go to our AMATYC Board Liaison and outgoing Immediate Past President Laura Watkins, whose support has been crucial to the ANet's early development. Together, we have begun identifying ways to sustain two-year college faculty involvement in student research teams. The ANet has also started a database to connect teams of students and faculty with working papers, presentations, projects, and funding opportunities.

The RMESF ANet Executive Committee continues to hold monthly organizational and mentoring meetings on Zoom from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm Pacific Time on the first Friday of each month (August–December and February–May). These meetings are open to all, including students. In addition to updates, we discuss strategies for developing and funding math research initiatives at two-year colleges and for fostering collaborations with four-year institutions.

We encourage all two-year college faculty to adopt a favorite open problem or emerging application of mathematics to share with students as a source of motivation. Please use the tinyurl link above for more information and to get involved in promoting mathematical inquiry on your campus.

Finally, we are seeking to identify two-year college faculty in the AMATYC Midwest Region who are working with students or colleagues on math research or on emerging applications such as data science. If you know of anyone engaged in this work, please contact me at dana.clahane@amatyc.org. We know these faculty are out there, and we would love to connect with them.

Placement and Assessment ANet

by Christine Mirbaha, Chair

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Placement and Assessment ANet's meeting and sharing session during the 51st AMATYC Annual Conference in Reno. Our discussions–especially those focused on placement issues–were enlightening, productive, and valuable. Other topics included multiple measures, corequisite concerns, general education assessments, and the impact of various approaches on effective placement into mathematics courses.

This year, our ANet will continue working on several projects. These include potentially hosting IMPACT Live! in 2026, revising the Standards under our purview, and updating the Initial Placement of Students into the Mathematics Curriculum position statement approved at the 2021 Delegate Assembly. We will also continue exploring trends in placement and assessment and identifying possible future position statement topics.

If you are interested in placement or assessment issues, we invite you to connect with us. Enroll in our community on myAMATYC and join the conversation. It's a great way to get involved and network with colleagues. For more information about our ANet's focus and activities, contact Christine Mirbaha at https://my.AMATYC.org or cmirbaha@ccbcmd.edu.

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Focus on Affiliates: KAMATYC

by Chris Imm, KAMATYC President Elect

During the spring of 2025, members of the Kansas Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (KAMATYC) joined with the Kansas Section of the Mathematical Association of America (KSMAA) to host a dynamic two-day conference on the campus of Emporia State University in Emporia, KS. The event opened on Friday evening with an inspiring keynote by Opal Jones of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory on Pattern Avoidance in Restricted Permutations. Following the keynote, attendees enjoyed a lively reception before gathering in the Emporia State Planetarium for a stunning guided tour of the night sky and solar system.

Saturday featured a full schedule of concurrent sessions from both organizations. KAMATYC presentations highlighted innovative approaches to teaching and learning, including Conventionalizing, Elementary Statistics as a New Pathway, Instructional Resources for Teaching Contemporary Mathematics, and Project-Based Learning in Mathematics. KSMAA's keynote was delivered by Hortensia Soto of Colorado State University, who presented Creating Metaphors for Linear Algebra Concepts: Developing Cognitive, Behavioral, and Affective Domains, followed by the Collegiate Math Competition awards ceremony.

The KAMATYC Board has been actively promoting membership, maintaining the organization's website, and preparing for future spring conferences. Elections were held in October, and beginning January 2026 through December 2027, the new leadership team will include Whitney Turner (President-Elect), Chris Imm (President), DeeAnn Van Luyck (Past President), and Bethany Chandler (Treasurer).

We look forward to teaming up again with KSMAA to host the next joint KAMATYC–KSMAA conference at Fort Hays State University in Hays, KS, on March 27–28, 2026.

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