

**Connecting with Mathematics through Competition:
College-Preparatory Mathematics Competition (CPMC)**

Abed Saleh
Suzanne S. Austin-Hill
Department of Mathematics
Miami Dade College
Kendall Campus

In the classroom, it is the instructor's responsibility to "plant the seeds" of learning through expert teaching. However, outside of class, it is the students' responsibility to reap the "harvest" of the teaching and learning experiences. In the spirit of collaborative learning, the CPMC encourages students to be more actively, and uniquely, involved in the study of mathematics during the time allotted to the "harvest".

The CPMC is funded by The Learning Innovations Golden Apple Grants. According to Eduardo J. Padrón, President, Miami Dade College, these grants "are unique in their ability to capture the character of Miami Dade [College]." (Message from the President July 5, 2006) The purpose of the CPMC is to connect students with mathematics through team (and individual) competition outside of the classroom. It is an innovative intervention that will keep students interested, involved, and inspired while actively engaged in the teaching and learning process.

The project design includes components of the Miami Dade College Strategic Plan, Miami Dade Mission Statement, College's Vision Statement, Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP [You might consider referencing prior MAA articles on this subject here.]) and Kendall Campus - Department of Mathematics Vision Plan. During the fall and spring semesters of the 2006-2007 academic year, students enrolled in College Preparatory Algebra (MAT 0002), College-Preparatory Algebra (MAT 0024), College

Preparatory Mathematics (MAT 0020), and Intermediate Algebra (MAT 1033) are provided biweekly online opportunities to complete challenging problem sets that will enhance and further their knowledge and understanding of the mathematics they are studying. Furthermore, it is our intent to decrease the affective filter that inhibits the success of these students.

Data will be collected during each major semester. Analyses and reports, other than those relative to success in next mathematics course, will be completed by the end of summer 2007. In the spirit of healthy competition, student attitude, retention, and performance are expected to improve.

For further information, contact Prof. Abed Saleh at asaleh@mdc.edu or Dr. Suzanne S. Austin-Hill at saustin@mdc.edu.