

VISIONS

Spring 2023

Virginia Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges

The newsletter of the Virginia Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

Included in this Issue:

[Election of VMATYC Board Members](#)

[Fall 2023 VMATYC Conference Announcement](#)

[Call for VMATYC Newsletter Contributors](#)

[Glenn Fox Scholarship Update](#)

[Student Research League](#)

[Project ACCESS Program Information](#)

[2022 AMATYC Conference Report](#)

[Membership Report](#)

[Spring Regional Meeting Dates](#)

[VMATYC Campus Contacts](#)

VMATYC Executive Board 2021-2023	
Theresa Thomas, BRCC President	Wes Crumpler, TCC Past-President
Michael Filsinger, VPCC President-Elect	Sherry Vaughan Treasurer
Xavier Retnam, CVCC Recording Secretary	Aicha Mouloud, NVCC Membership Secretary
Christy Lowery-Carter, SVCC Vice President, Central Region	Julia Varbalow, VPCC Vice President, Eastern Region
Matthew Westerhoff, NVCC Vice President, Northern Region	Travis Coake, NRCC Vice President, Western Region
Jason Lachniet, WCC Webmaster	Cheryl Brindle, Laurel Ridge CC Affiliate Delegate to AMATYC
Ashley Pratt, MGCC Newsletter Editor	

Election of VMATYC Board Members

Wes Crumpler

rcrumpler@tcc.edu

The election of the 2023- 2024 Executive Board will take place at the beginning of the Fall 2023 Semester. All current members as of the beginning of the fall semester will be eligible to vote and will receive a ballot. We are looking for candidates to fill positions.

The elected positions are:

- President-Elect
- Central Region Vice President
- Eastern Region Vice President
- Northern Region Vice President
- Western Region Vice President
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- Webmaster
- AMATYC Affiliate Delegate

If you have any questions about these positions, please contact Wes Crumpler at rcrumpler@tcc.edu.

Save the Date: VMATYC Fall 2023 Conference

BRCC will host VMATYC Fall 2023--Oct 20th-21st. More details to come!

Call for VMATYC Newsletter Contributors

We want to spotlight the great work that VCCS Mathematics faculty are doing! Share a classroom activity, news from your college, or a recent presentation! Even if you are not a member of VMATYC, you can still submit something for the newsletter. You can submit articles by emailing Ashley Pratt, Newsletter Editor at: apratt@mgcc.edu

Glenn Fox VMATYC Mathematics and Computer Science Scholarship Report

Wes Crumpler

rcrumpler@tcc.edu

VMATYC is happy to announce that we have awarded the Glenn Fox memorial Mathematics and Computer Science Scholarship to Hadrien Padilla from Piedmont Virginia Community College. Hadrien was sponsored by VMATYC member Wendi Dass and received his award of \$500 for the spring 2023 semester.



Hadrien is a computer science major at PVCC. His strong calculating ability and keen conceptual understanding makes him stand out from his peers. Outside of the classroom, Hadrien also excels. He is the president of PVCC's student government association. In this position, he leads regular meetings, organizes and facilitates events, and represents the student body on various college committees. On a more academic note, Hadrien works as a math tutor in the PVCC tutoring center where his patience and breadth of mathematical

knowledge do not go unnoticed. This summer, Hadrien will be interning at the Biomedical Engineering Department at the University of Michigan working on programming for the Histotripsy group.

VMATYC would like to remind you that we can support students through this scholarship due to your generous donations. Also, we depend on you to nominate your students for this scholarship. Start looking today for worthy candidates that you can nominate. The Fox Scholarship fund relies on donations from generous members like you. Donations are made through the VMATYC website at <http://vmatyc.org/fox-scholarship/donate/>.

The VMATYC Glenn Fox memorial Mathematics and Computer Science Scholarship Committee is now seeking qualified applicants for the 2023 – 2024 academic year. The recipient of the scholarship receives \$1,000 each semester for one academic year. The \$1,000 is distributed directly to the student, as opposed to other scholarships that are sent directly to the school, to be used to support them on their educational journey.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must:

1. Intend to major in mathematics, computer science, or mathematics education and demonstrate potential for success in any of these areas.
2. Demonstrate ability, determination, and motivation necessary for successful academic performance.
3. Have completed at least 12 semester hours of college-level courses, including 3 hours of transfer mathematics at a Virginia community college, by the end of the spring semester with a GPA of 3.2 or higher.

4. Continue for two semesters (fall-spring of the award year) at a Virginia community college and enroll in at least 6 semester hours of college-level courses, including a transfer-level mathematics course, for each semester the scholarship is received.

The application is available online at <http://vmatyc.org/fox-scholarship/>. Applicants complete the online application and upload the required documents:

1. An unofficial transcript
2. At least two letters of recommendation
 - a. A letter from your sponsoring faculty member (must be a current VMATYC member)
 - b. A letter from another member of your community college, or from a member of the community (not a family member)

COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKETS are due no later than June 16, 2023. A committee composed of the VMATYC past president and a representative from each region will review the applications and award the scholarship by June 30, 2023.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Wes Crumpler at rcrumpler@tcc.edu.

Student Research League

Matthew Westerhoff

mwesterhoff@nvcc.edu

“Northern Virginia Community College Students Receive Third Place Nationally in the AMATYC Student Research League Competition”

A team of students from the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) has won Third Place at the national



(Left to Right) Angel Sanchez-Palomino, Raiyan Ahmad, Rohin Batra, and Professor/Mentor Matthew

level in the 2022 American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) Student Research League competition. Angel Sanchez-Palomino, Raiyan Ahmad, Rohin Batra along with the team’s mentor Professor Matthew Westerhoff represented NVCC in the competition. The challenge problem was to research the costs and benefits of using electric vehicles, including direct costs to users and to the economy as well as costs to the environment using a mathematical model. The students were honored at last year’s 48th AMATYC Annual conference (November 17 – 20, 2022) in Toronto, Canada.

Rohin Batra is currently a sophomore studying at NOVA and working towards finishing an associate’s degree in computer science by Spring 2023 and wants to transfer to Virginia Tech to pursue a bachelor’s degree in computer science. Rohan hopes to find a career in embedded

software/systems development, as lower-level programming is something that has truly fascinated him. In his free time, he enjoys drumming in his band, trail running, and macro photography.

Angel Sanchez-Palomino wants to study electrical engineering with a power and energy systems concentration. After graduation, Angel wants to obtain a TOEFL certification and travel the world teaching English.

Raiyan Ahmad is currently completing an associate's degree in computer science at NOVA. He plans to transfer to George Mason University to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science and may consider pursuing a master's degree.

Project ACCESS Program

Ashley Pratt

apratt@mgcc.edu



Applications for Cohort 19 of Project ACCESS are live on the AMATYC website!

If you are not familiar with Project ACCESS, it is a fantastic way for newer faculty to get involved with the national AMATYC community, build networks with other early career faculty, and get professional development focused on the needs of new faculty. As a Project ACCESS Alum (Cohort 16), I encourage you to share this opportunity with any new faculty at your college. Connecting with faculty from across the continent has given me so many resources, contacts, and opportunities to collaborate with other new instructors.

Faculty teaching mathematics at a community or technical college or other associate degree-granting institutions may apply provided:

- They have a master's degree or higher in mathematics, mathematics education or other related field with significant coursework in graduate-level mathematics, and
- The upcoming academic year will be the first, second, third, or fourth year of their first full-time, renewable position. Adjunct, part-time and full-time temporary faculty are ineligible. It is expected that most participants will be recent graduates with master's or doctoral degrees, or adjunct faculty members who have moved into full-time positions.

If you have new faculty at your institution, this is a great opportunity for them so please let them know. The information is available at [Project ACCESS](#) and if you or they have any questions at all, please email LFeinman@ccbcmd.edu.

Applications are due by **May 15th**.

AMATYC 2022 Conference Report

Cheryl Brindle, Laurel Ridge CC

CBrindle@laurelridge.edu

The 2022 AMATYC Conference was held in Toronto, Canada on 17-20 November, 2022 with virtual sessions held on 2 & 3 December, 2022. The theme of the conference was: “Opening Doors Through Mathematics.” There were about 200 individual sessions with 2 keynote speakers and 2 featured speakers.



Several sessions highlighted diversity, equity, and inclusion in math courses. Students need to feel that they belong in the math classroom. Our classes can be mirrors where they see themselves in the problems and concepts presented and windows where they can see other possibilities and cultures. We want students to love math. We can facilitate this by emphasizing some of the following: broaden the purpose of learning math – not just to understand the concepts, create equitable instruction structures, and provide quality (not quantity) learning experiences. Students should realize that struggle is part of learning. We, as math educators, must realize

that equity is not automatic with active learning. We must create math environments that allow all students to be successful.

One of my highlights was attending the session lead by Marty Triola. He is the author of several Statistics textbooks, including the one that we use at Laurel Ridge. His presentation for this conference was concerning the P-value controversy that has been plaguing statistics education for the last few years. Some in the field want to abandon the inclusion of using the p-value method for hypothesis testing and only rely on creating confidence intervals. He reported that the 2021 ASA (American Statistical Association) Task Force report concluded that the use of p-values is an important tool that should not be abandoned, but that it should not be the only tool used. Triola’s solution to this dilemma is to utilize what he calls “holistic statistics.” We need to have our students analyze content, consider the source and plot the data. They should be using at least 2 types of technology or testing methods. We should incorporate simulations and projects into our statistics courses.

Two items that were discussed in the Statistics ANet meeting were that Data Science will now be a subcommittee of this ANet. Also – the US Cots conference will be held in person June 1-3 at Penn State University. The theme is “Communicating With and About Data.”

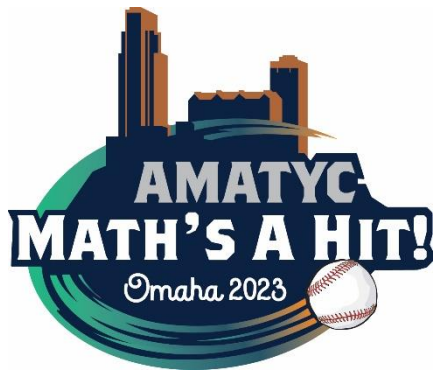
The Math Intensive (Pre-Calculus and beyond) ANet had a lively discussion about the various upper-level math courses. The general opinion was that there is not enough time to cover the essential topics and that each college needs to look closely at what is taught and why – are topics needed for the next higher math course and/or the various degree programs that require these courses (computer science, engineering, physics). The ANet members want to encourage colleagues to get involved with this ANet and the various “learning communities” in the MyAMATYC site to discuss these issues.

The main focus of this ANet has been in writing a Position Statement concerning the content of Pre-Calculus. This statement should be ready to present to the 2023 Delegate Assembly. Even though this statement will not contain a proposed list of topics, we ask that this topic be discussed at the college level to provide input for this statement. The opinion of the ANet members is that there are too many topics included in the first semester

Pre-Calculus course that is offered at most 2-year institutions. Pre-Calculus and Calculus instructors are asked to look at this list of topics to decide which are “essential” for future success in math/degree courses and which can be designated as “optional.”

Dr. Peter Liljedahl, Professor of Mathematics Education at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada, was one of the keynote speakers. The ideas in his presentation, “Building Thinking Classrooms,” were from his book, [Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics](#). He discusses “14 teaching practices for enhancing learning.” He stated that mimicking is not thinking or learning. If we want students to think, we need to give them tasks to think about. These tasks need to be ones that all students can start – create access for all students. These tasks need to have a high ceiling so students have the opportunity to meet challenges. These tasks do not need to be associated with the curriculum. A task is considered a “thinking task” until we show them how to do it.

Check out this website for more information: <https://buildingthinkingclassrooms.com/14-practices/>



The 2023 AMATYC conference will be held November 9-12, 2023, in Omaha, Nebraska. The theme is: “Math’s a Hit!” Conference information is located here: <https://amatyc.org/page/2023ConfHome>

Membership Report

Aicha Mouloud, Membership Secretary
amouloud@nvcc.edu

As of January 19, 2023, the membership number is 30.

Spring Regional Meeting Information

Western Region Spring Meeting

Vice President Travis Coake tcoake@nr.edu

The Spring 2023 Western Region meeting will take place via Zoom Friday April 14th from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Contact Travis Coake for details.

Registration: <https://vmatyc.org/about/vmatyc-regions/western-region/>



Northern Region Spring Meeting

Vice President Matthew Westerhoff
mwesterhoff@nvcc.edu

The Northern Region VMATYC 2023 Spring Meeting will be Friday, April 14, 2023.

- Location: Northern Virginia Community College (Annandale campus)
- Time: 8:30am – 6:00pm
- Day: April 14, 2023

Register using the form below. Contact Northern Region VP Matthew Westerhoff if you have questions.

Registration: <https://vmatyc.org/about/vmatyc-regions/northern-region/>

Eastern Spring Meeting

Vice President Julia Varbalow
varbalowj@vpcc.edu

The Eastern Region VMATYC 2023 Spring Meeting will be Friday, April 14, 2023.

- Location: Virginia Peninsula Community College (Hampton campus)
- Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm; Lunch 12:00 -1:00
- Day: April 14, 2023

Register using the form below. Contact Eastern Region VP Julia Varbalow if you have questions.

Registration: <https://vmatyc.org/about/vmatyc-regions/eastern/>

Central Region Spring Meeting

Vice President Christy Lowery-Carter
christy.carter@southside.edu

The central region will be meeting via Zoom on Friday, April 7th at 9 AM.

Registration: <https://vmatyc.org/about/vmatyc-regions/central-region/>

VMATYC Campus Contacts

In order to help facilitate communication, the following people have agreed to be the local contact for VMATYC at their school/campus. Please contact Ashley Pratt at apratt@mgcc.edu if there are any corrections to this list.

Western Region:

- Mountain Empire – Frank Wright fwright@me.vccs.edu
- New River – Travis Coake tcoake@nr.edu
- Southwest Virginia – Lisa Henley Lisa.Henley@sw.edu
- Virginia Highlands – Jason Lachniet jlachniet@vhcc.edu
- Wytheville – Susan Evans sevans@wcc.vccs.edu

Northern Region:

- Blue Ridge – Theresa Thomas thomast@brcc.edu
- Germanna – Carrie Hibbs chibbs@germanna.edu
- Laurel Ridge – Frank Borleske fborleske@laurelridge.edu
- NOVA Alexandria – Bruce Wahl bwahl@nvcc.edu
- NOVA Annandale – Terry Krize tkrize@nvcc.edu
- NOVA Loudoun – Michael Wallace mwallace@nvcc.edu
- NOVA Manassas – Matthew Westerhoff mwesterhoff@nvcc.edu
- NOVA Woodbridge – Camisha Parker cparker@nvcc.edu
- Piedmont – Zachary Beamer zbeamer@pvcc.edu

Central region:

- Central VA – Alison Moore moorea@cvcc.vccs.edu
- Mountain Gateway – Richard Watkins rwatkins@mgcc.edu
- Danville – Mary Motley mary.motley@danville.edu
- Patrick & Henry – Chris Wikstrom cwikstrom@patrickhenry.edu
- Southside VA – Christy Lowery-Carter christy.carter@southside.edu
- Virginia Western – Cristin Barrett cbarrett@viriniawestern.edu

Eastern Region:

- Eastern Shore – Bob Rhea rrhea@es.vccs.edu
- Brightpoint – Chris Eliot celiot@jtcc.edu
- Rappahannock –
- Reynolds – James Wolfe JWolfe@reynolds.edu
- Virginia Peninsula – Michael Filsinger filsingerm@tncc.edu
- Tidewater Chesapeake – David French dfrench@tcc.edu
- Tidewater Norfolk – Dick Gill rgill@tcc.edu
- Tidewater Portsmouth – Adam Becker abecker@tcc.edu
- Tidewater Virginia Beach – Mike Kirby mkirby@tcc.edu

