

VMATYC 2024 Board Candidates

President Elect: [Matthew Westerhoff](#)

Matthew began teaching at the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) in the summer of 2005 as an adjunct faculty member, eventually ascending to the position of Associate Professor in spring 2016. Before transitioning to full-time teaching, he worked as a mathematician and principal investigator in the field of EM propagation at the Naval Research Lab. In 2010, he accepted a research fellowship at The Naval Surface Warfare Center, where he continued his work in EM propagation. However, his true calling and passion for teaching led him to become a tutor trainer and mentor at the Annandale Campus of NOVA. During this period, he revitalized the tutoring center by implementing a certification program for tutors and improving student retention.

In the fall of 2013, he became a full-time professor in mathematics at the Manassas campus of NOVA. Over the past several years, he has taught a diverse range of math courses, from developmental mathematics to differential equations. Notably, he was the first professor to offer Differential Equations and Linear Algebra on a continuous basis at the NOVA Manassas campus, making these courses increasingly popular over the years. He has actively contributed to various committees, particularly the Math Pathways committee in support of VCCS's strategic plan, Complete 2021. He also served on co-requisite and writing teams, enhancing his role in curriculum development. He also participated in programs like the STEM Takes Flight Program sponsored by the Virginia Space Grant consortium.

Furthermore, Matthew has taught pre-calculus, calculus, and differential equations honors courses, providing students with opportunities to present their research at various regional and national conferences. In addition to teaching, he has played an instrumental role as the advisor and mentor for the NOVA math club. His active involvement extends to VMATYC, where he has presented at multiple conferences, including ICTCM and VMATYC, focusing on the use of Maple software in calculus courses and mentoring students in the Student Mathematics and Research Leagues. Since 2019, he has also served as the Northern Virginia regional vice president of VMATYC and where he assisted in the coordination and planning of the past regional conferences.

Matthew holds a Master's Degree in Mathematics from the University of Texas and a Master's Degree in Computational Mathematics from George Mason University along with some advanced coursework in Radar from Georgia Tech.

Eastern Region VP

(vacant)

Central Region VP: Christy Lowery-Carter



Dr. Christy Lowery-Carter is a Professor of Mathematics at Southside Virginia Community College. She primarily teaches MTE courses, Math 154, Math 161, and Math 245. Dr. Lowery-Carter earned her Ed.D. and Ed.S at Liberty University in Teaching and Learning, a MAT in Mathematics Education from Averett University, and a BS in Mathematics, Mathematical Decision Science, Accounting, and Management Science from Averett University as well.

Dr. Lowery-Carter began her career teaching at Halifax County High School and taught as an adjunct for SVCC in the evenings. She transitioned to a full time position at SVCC in 2006. Her heart lies in preparing developmental mathematics students for their successful transition to college-level mathematics courses.

Western Region VP: Travis Coake



I am married to Kayla Coake, who also works here at NRCC, and we have 3 young children together. In Education I began college right here at NRCC and transferred to UNCW for marine biology in the mid 90's. That degree was never completed because I decided to double major in applied mathematics and computer science from Radford University. I completed my master's degree in pure mathematics in 2005 from East Tennessee State University. My thesis was titled "Predicting Secondary RNA Structures found in Nature using Graph Theory." Just as I was beginning my PhD in aerospace at Virginia Tech I was

offered a position here at NRCC as a full-time math instructor in 2005. It's important to note that I have not earned my PhD yet. I have been working here at New River Community College for the past 16 years. For the past couple years, and in addition to teaching and all that entails, I have spent the majority of my spare time writing an OER technical mathematics textbook that we currently use for MTH 131. Several other colleges in the VCCS plan to use it as well beginning as early as Fall 2022. I'll be adding a couple additional chapters to make the OER book accommodating for other (similar) courses as well. Aside from my professional commitments, I enjoy working with wood where I build cabinets, furniture, and have built several houses in my past, but I haven't tackled any projects that large in nearly 10 years.

Northern Region VP: Sharon Schoolcraft



Sharon has been in and out of the classroom for over five years, and Sharon recently received her MS in Teaching Mathematics. Sharon loves breaking down word problems into tangible math steps and engaging students with her love for math. Sharon utilizes color as a language in her lessons to help facilitate understanding and decoding of word problems. While Sharon enjoys teaching math of all levels and building the fundamentals, Sharon also says, "Calculus and Statistics are my jam."

Sharon has completed Graduate work at William and Mary, University of North Texas, and Texas Woman's University. Sharon holds the belief that we never stop learning.

Recording Secretary: Xavier Retnam



Xavier Retnam is a Professor of Mathematics at Central Virginia Community College since 2010. Before coming to CVCC, he was a Professor of Mathematics at four-year colleges for 18 years. He has a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Tennessee, and an M.E. degree from the University of Virginia. His wife is an adjunct Professor of Health at CVCC, and his son is a graduate student in Biostatistics at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Membership Secretary: Aicha Mouloud



I have been teaching mathematics for almost three decades at different levels and in different institutions: High school, university, oil and gas institute and naval academy. I hold a bachelor's degree in partial differential equations and master's degree in ordinary differential equations and dynamical systems and a PhD in applied mathematics.

I am relatively a new immigrant to the US with a diverse cultural background. English is my third language with Arabic and French. I lived and studied in Canada where I completed my PhD. NOVA Community College, Annandale Campus is my last destination where I started as an ESL student! The time I spent at Nova as a student helped me discover the NVCC system of education from within. I enjoyed meeting with students from very diverse background and ethnic origin. That was a great experience which made me decide to stay at NOVA Community College as soon as my English communication skills allowed me to.

I always take new challenges and new experiences; they keep me upbeat. When I am not teaching, I enjoy spending time with my family, hiking, swimming, and cooking!

AMATYC Affiliate Delegate: Cody Fouts



Hi, everyone! My name is Cody Fouts and I am in my second year as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Laurel Ridge Community College. I am originally from Washington State and prior to starting my position at Laurel Ridge, I was a full-time faculty member in the Math Department at Pierce Community College in Lakewood, WA for 6 years. I have worked in a variety of roles in education throughout my career, from serving as a tutor and mentor for high school students in Federal Way, WA to working in a high school in Spain as a Language and Culture Assistant.

Treasurer: Wendi Dass



Wendi Dass is a professor at Piedmont Virginia Community College where she currently is the acting department chair. Since she is good at arithmetic and with spreadsheets, she thinks treasurer is just the position for her! As evidence of her strong numerical skills (in case being a math professor isn't sufficient), she has served as bookkeeper for several non-profit organizations.

Webmaster: Jason Lachniet



Jason Lachniet has been teaching in the VCCS since 2007, first at Wytheville and now at Virginia Highlands. He began his study of mathematics at Grand Rapids Community College, followed by Michigan State University, and eventually, graduate school at East Tennessee State University, where he earned an M.S. in mathematics.

He served as the VMATYC Western Region VP from 2013 to 2021 and as Webmaster from 2021 to 2023. If reelected, he looks forward to remaining involved with VMATYC and keeping the website up to date. If not reelected, he will be happy to offer any and all assistance needed to ensure a smooth transition to a new webmaster.

The following three board positions are not elected.

President: Michael Filsinger, TNCC



Michael Filsinger is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Virginia Peninsula Community College, teaching courses in Quantitative Reasoning, Precalculus, and Calculus. He is currently President-Elect of VMATYC, and will be transitioning to President in October. He received an M.S. in Mathematics in 1992 and an M.S. in Computer Science in 1994, both from the University of Cincinnati. Michael has over 25 years of college teaching experience, teaching both curricular and developmental mathematics, computer science, and computer engineering courses.

Past President: Theresa Thomas



Theresa Thomas started teaching in 1994. She graduated from Millersville State University in PA with a Bachelors' of Science in Math Education and began her career at a High School in Elkton, Md. She soon thereafter moved to the Shenandoah Valley and taught for a year at a county HS. After having her children, she decided to teach at Blue Ridge Community College in addition to finishing her MaEd in Mathematics at JMU. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. She continues to be involved at the statewide level as math continues to be developed and modified to meet the changing needs of our students.

Newsletter Editor: Ashley Pratt



Ashley Pratt teaches mathematics at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College. Prior to joining the DSLCC faculty in 2018, she taught high school mathematics for 7 years. She is currently a member of Cohort 16 of AMATYC's Project ACCESS, a program for new faculty in two-year colleges. She is interested in educational technology and how it can be used to support active learning in mathematics, as well as how to help students experience mathematics in a positive way. She also enjoys cooking (especially southern food), swimming, and spoiling her two cats.