

**Solving America's Math Problem:
Monterey Institute For Technology and Education Receives \$5 Million
For Developmental Math Project**

MONTEREY, Calif., October 9, 2009 – Learning math is a big factor in the formula that equates to success in life. A college degree is crucial to finding a good job in today's world, and math is the primary reason students don't make it into and through college. The Monterey Institute for Technology and Education (MITE), a leader in online learning, recently received a \$5 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to fund a new developmental math project to help address this escalating crisis.

Half of all freshman entering community colleges are required to take up to two years of remedial math before they can take credit bearing classes. Community colleges spend more than a billion dollars a year teaching remedial math, but the failure rate in these classes is high, forcing many students to drop out of college entirely.

"Making math relevant to the lives of contemporary students, whether they are teens or adults, and keeping them interested in the material is essential." said MITE executive director Gary Lopez, "These online courses will use interactive simulations, games and projects rooted in situations the students can relate to and there will be tools to give them immediate feedback, thereby accelerating their progress through the coursework."

The program will combine four courses required in most remedial math sequences. Often students have taken these classes before and know some, but not all, of the material. Pre-assessment tests will determine the specific areas and knowledge students need to work on and the flexible nature of the online courses will allow students and teachers to select the appropriate modules for their particular needs.

"Using a mix of learning approaches will make math concepts and procedures accessible to a wide range of students," said MITE's director of learning design Ruth Rominger, "We want institutions to be able to create unique pathways through math for their students and for individual students to work through the courses in a way that is suitable for their learning styles."

Earlier this year representatives from MITE began meeting with educators, students and administrators, as well as with leading educational organizations, to discuss the future of developmental math and to gather information for developing new curriculum, approaches and products for teaching math.

"Drawing on their experience in the field, our membership can add to this new vision for teaching developmental math." said president of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Richelle Blair, "Students are not all the same and developmental math content needs to be redesigned to serve the needs of 21st century students."

Ultimately, the developmental math coursework will be distributed through MITE's highly respected library of web-based content, the National Repository of Online Courses (NROC), which is accessible to individual learners free of charge online at www.hippocampus.org. NROC is an Open Educational Resource, part of a movement fueled by the belief that everyone is entitled to an education, regardless of their financial or social circumstances.

The Monterey Institute for Technology and Education is a non-profit educational organization committed to helping meet society's need for access to effective, high-quality educational opportunities in an era of rapid economic, social and personal change. The Monterey Institute for Technology and Education was founded in 2003 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Learn more at www.montereyinstitute.org

Organization Contact

Gary Lopez, Ph.D., Executive Director
Monterey Institute for Technology and Education
(831) 642-9459
glopez@montereyinstitute.org
www.montereyinstitute.org
www.hippocampus.org