

Looking At The ISSUES

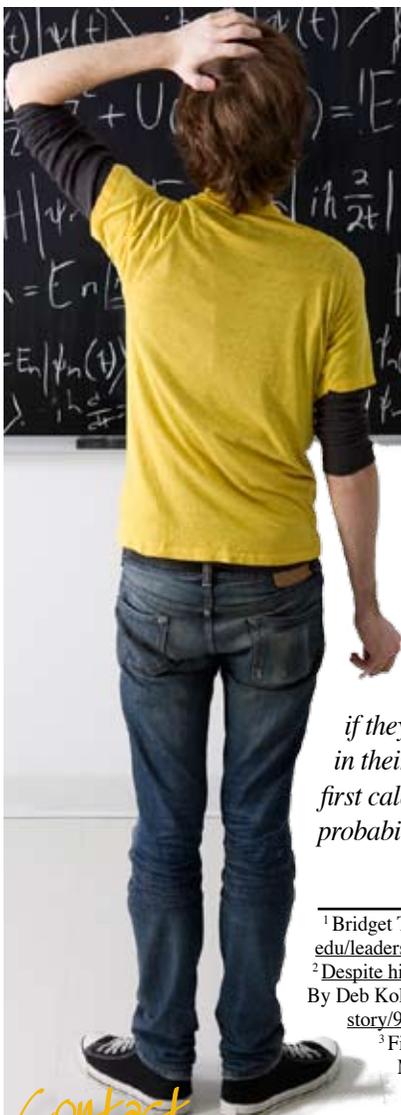
Stark
Education
Partnership
inc.

May 16, 2008

Looking At The Week

Creating Networks of Action to Solve Important Problems

The Stark County P-16 Compact met on May 14 and heard about a plan to eliminate college remediation in math in Stark County. College and high school educators will meet together this summer, beginning with a math summit. They will look at the Compass Test from ACT (students must test at 65 to begin college math courses), look at data on the previous results, and collaboratively plan strategies that use what the colleges know works to address the problem with all high school seniors during the 2008-2009 school year.



Is ending college remediation an important problem to solve? *According to the Ohio Board of Regents (2002) 25% of students who had completed a core high school curriculum still needed remediation in either math or English.¹*

One of the biggest reasons for the large wave of college students behind in algebra is timing. If a student takes algebra as an eighth- or ninth-grader, it often means arriving at a community college or state college with several years separating their last encounter with x and y . "You have to keep practicing your skills or they diminish," said Michael Kane, interim dean of sciences and mathematics at Sierra College.²

Eliminating remedial courses in college will increase "intensity." Research shows that one of the most important characteristics of effective first year college programs is 'intensity.' Newly enrolled students have a much greater chance of completing a degree if they take a substantial number of academic credits early in their academic careers. Earning less than 20 credits in the first calendar year following post secondary entry lessens the probability of completing a bachelor's degree by a third.³

¹ Bridget Terry Long, HGSE Associate Professor, <http://www.uknow.gse.harvard.edu/leadership/LP101-407.html>

² *Despite high school algebra focus, more students need remedial college math*
By Deb Kollars *Sacramento Bee* (May 12, 2008) <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/930410.html>

³ First Annual Report on The Condition of Higher Education in Ohio:
Meeting the State's Future Needs. (p.6)

Seniors to Sophomores

Joseph Rochford attended a "Seniors to Sophomores" meeting in Columbus on May 13, 2008 together with high school and college educators from Stark County.

Fulbright to Uganda

On May 15, Joe Rochford left to go to Uganda on his Fulbright. He has been asked to address all of the college presidents in Uganda on the topic of collaborative leadership. We look forward to his return on June 6, 2008.

Education Works

Adrienne O'Neill attended a meeting of Education Works, a regional group funded by Fund for Our Economic Future, the Gund Foundation, the Cleveland Foundation and the Jennings Foundation. Also attending the meeting from Stark County were Jim Pennetti from the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Michele Evans-Gardell, Superintendent of the Canton City Schools.