Press Release Information about Toyota Math and Technology Leadership Academy

We are here this evening to celebrate the culmination of the Math and Technology Leadership Academy. Toyota MTLA was a professional development initiative for elementary math teachers of grades K-6 in the Bowling Green Independent Schools and Warren County Schools. This award proposal from Toyota USA Foundation was written by Dr. Pam Petty for $500,000 for 3 years. MTLA was designed to improve student and teacher dispositions and beliefs, increase student learning, and increase family involvement in math and technology. This program has been directed by Dr. Marge Maxwell and Dr. Janet Tassell.

The main goal of the Toyota MTLA initiative was to grow teachers in leadership, mathematics, and technology – this has clearly been done...

- Example: presentations to fellow teachers in schools by the MTLA Scholars
- Example: Technology presentations at the KYSTE conference and Mathematics Education presentations at the KCTCM conference by the Scholars
- Example: Scholars completing three graduate courses in mathematics and technology pedagogy
- Example: Research presentations at the ISTE and AERA conferences
- Example: Authentic projects in mathematics that incorporate technology

It is clear this initiative would not have been successful without the collaboration and support with the superintendents, principals, and teachers of Warren County Schools and Bowling Green Independent School District. We cannot say enough about the importance of a healthy relationship where we listen to your ideas and concerns as we strive to make these initiatives work – and want to thank you for your patience in allowing us to push some of the boundaries of what may not have ever been asked of your teacher participants before in an initiative. We hope it has been worth it.

It is also so important to note the relationship in this initiative between the Housing Authority and WKU. How wonderful that the award help in funding for tutoring for the children. We also appreciate your collaboration for allowing our Toyota MTLA Scholars to work with the tutors and students in this community setting.

An outcome of this grant was the development of the Elementary Mathematics Specialist Endorsement. This took collaboration between the School of Teacher Education and the Ogden College Mathematics Department. It is clearly an outcome associated with this initiative and shows the importance of pushing ourselves to think smart, creatively and push for greatness as we did become the first Elementary Mathematics Specialist Endorsement in Kentucky. This is at a time when this need is great – when teachers want an opportunity for that extra focus to grow in mathematics instruction knowledge.

The Toyota USA Foundation believed in this award proposal and entrusted us with administering the vision in a quality manner. The Toyota MTLA Scholars have become our examples – they have shown their growth in Leadership, Mathematics, and Technology. They are our models.

**Accomplishments**

- 14 Math and Technology Teacher Leaders developed for the region
• The 3-year grant award encompassed 14 teachers—one chosen from 14 of the schools, taking three courses for nine credit hours, all expenses paid, with evening seminars sprinkled throughout the duration of MTLA. The coursework focused on a comprehensive math and technology approach that will improve teachers’ knowledge and instructional practices in math, technology, diversity, leadership, and assessment.
  
• In the second and third year of MTLA, participants will lead other teachers in professional development and implementation of the instructional modules in their schools.

  • Pedagogy Courses developed for this Initiative
    o ELED 571: Leadership, Math and Technology Education
    o ELED 572: Math and Technology Methods for Diverse Learners
    o ELED 573: Math and Technology Assessment

  • Elementary Mathematics Specialist Endorsement Created
    o First in Kentucky!
    o All online!
    o Three pedagogy plus two Math courses (Math 411G, Math 507, Math 508)
    o Seven of the MTLA Scholars were the first to complete the endorsement

  • Housing Authority of Bowling Green
    o Collaboration to complete four different projects

  • Mini-grants for each scholar at their 14 individual schools

  • Professional Growth Plans for each of the 14 participants

  • Presentations
    o All 14 scholars have conducted a regional or state conference presentation.
    o The co-directors and consultants have conducted 12 national and international conference presentations.
    o State: KYSTE, KCTM
    o National: AERA, ISTE, NAGC

  • Publications
    o NAGC STEM Newsletter (2012)
    o Six books for 1st-6th Grade Common Core Math through Garlic Press, in press (2013)
    o CReaTE research has yielded one journal article (2011), one book chapter (2011), one proceedings publication (2011), and one book in progress (2013)
    o Parenting for High Potential (journal article, in progress, 2013)

Toyota MTLA website for more information: http://wkumtla.weebly.com/index.html

We have had 3 MTLA babies and one wedding.