



## Upcoming Conferences

48<sup>th</sup> Annual RGVCTM Conference  
Soaring Beyond the STAAR  
Saturday, November 9, 2013  
UTPA  
Edinburg, Texas  
<http://rgvctm.org>

National Council of Teachers of  
Mathematics (NCTM) Annual  
Conference  
April 9-12, 2014  
New Orleans, LA  
<http://nctm.org>

Conference for the Advancement of  
Mathematics Teaching (CAMT)  
July 21-23, 2014  
Fort Worth, TX  
<http://camtonline.org>



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## President's Message

For many years, the Rio Grande Valley Council of Teachers of Mathematics (RGVCTM) has organized an annual conference to support mathematics education across South Texas. The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Mathematics Conference this past November was a great success thanks to the efforts of RGVCTM Board Members, UTPA personnel, volunteers, presenters, exhibitors, and conference attendees. It is through the cooperation of all those involved that we are able to enrich mathematics education for the students of the Rio Grande Valley. We extend a special thanks to the University of Texas – Pan American for their continued support in hosting the conference.

The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual RGVCTM Conference, *Mathematics: Soaring Beyond the STAAR!*, will be held Saturday, November 9, 2013. We invite you to join us for this outstanding event. The registration form is on page four of this newsletter, and it is available at [www.rgvctm.org](http://www.rgvctm.org). We welcome your suggestions for improvement of the conference, presenters, or exhibitors. Please send your suggestions to: [hlucymh@aol.com](mailto:hlucymh@aol.com)

*Lucy Muñoz*

906 Jay Drive South  
Mission, TX 78573  
[hlucymh@aol.com](mailto:hlucymh@aol.com)

We are now accepting presenter proposals for the 48th annual conference. If you are interested in submitting a presenter proposal or an advertisement for our conference program, you may download the applications for both at the following address:

[www.rgvctm.org](http://www.rgvctm.org)

Join our Facebook Group by clicking here:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rgvctm/>

## 2013 – 2014 RGVCTM Executive Board

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NCTM Representative	Consultant



## The UTeach-Pan American Program Provides Early Field Experience for Undergraduate STEM Majors in the Rio Grande Valley

Submitted by:

Tim Sears and Anna Gonzalez, Clinical Instructors, The University of Texas Pan American

To address the need for more highly qualified secondary math and science teachers in the Rio Grande Valley, UTPA offered new introductory pedagogy courses to math, science, engineering, and computer science majors through its UTeach-Pan American Program in 2012-2013. The program is modeled after the UTeach program that began in 1997 at The University of Texas at Austin and is a collaboration between the College of Science and Mathematics and the College of Education at UTPA.

Clinical faculty members Tim Sears and Anna Gonzalez taught two introductory pedagogy courses, *Inquiry Approaches to Teaching* and *Inquiry-Based Lesson Design*, with nationally-recognized curriculum that uses innovative approaches and the 5E model to develop students' interest in math and science teaching starting their freshman year of college. 117 students were enrolled in the program, and another 120 students are slated to enroll in fall 2013. In spring 2014, the program plans to expand to the South Texas College Pecan Campus in McAllen.

In the first course, UTPA freshman and sophomore student pairs were assigned to an experienced mentor teacher at a local elementary school, observed their mentor teacher's class twice, and taught three math or science lessons to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> grade students during the semester. Their UTPA instructors and mentor teachers provided oral and written feedback after observing the inquiry lessons they taught from nationally-recognized sources that included FOSS and NCTM. In the second course, student pairs were assigned to a local middle school math or science classroom. They designed collaborative inquiry-based lessons for topics selected with input from their middle school mentor teachers, and at least one lesson incorporated instructional technology. The UTeach-Pan American Program worked with 74 mentor teachers from McAllen ISD, Edinburg CISD, and South Texas ISD and plans to expand to other school districts in spring 2014. The UTPA students enjoyed sharing their passion for math and science with local students, and the program is grateful for the mentor teachers' support.

In addition to courses in their major, UTeach students take other specialized pedagogy and content courses that emphasize research, hands-on learning, projects, and the integration of math and science.

The UTeach-Pan American program has a student organization to support STEM-related activities in local school districts. If you'd like to invite their students to assist with math events, science nights, or science fairs at your campus, or if you'd like to invite them to tell your high school seniors about the UTeach program, please email [uteach@utpa.edu](mailto:uteach@utpa.edu).

## Newly Adopted K-8 Math TEKS

The State Board of Education approved new more rigorous math standards and textbook adoption rules that reflect the changing instructional materials marketplace.

Board members approved more than 100 amendments to the mathematics Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as they worked to clarify and streamline the standards that will form the basis of math instruction for students in kindergarten through high school.

Hundreds of Texas educators, citizens and business leaders offered input that was used to craft the standards.

"Texas is making a strong statement that it can write its own standards," said board Chair Barbara Cargill of The Woodlands.

Several educators who testified before the board said the new standards provide more in-depth coverage of math topics than the current standards, which were adopted in the past three to nine years, depending on the grade level.

The new standards will be implemented in kindergarten through eighth grade classrooms in the 2014-2015 school year, while the new high school standards will be implemented in 2015-2016.

**See the Side-by-Side K-8 TEKS here:**

[http://projectsharetexas.org/resource/revised-mathematics-teks-side-side-teks-comparison?field\\_resource\\_keywords\\_tid=side%20by%20side&sort\\_by=title&sort\\_order=ASC&items\\_per\\_page=5](http://projectsharetexas.org/resource/revised-mathematics-teks-side-side-teks-comparison?field_resource_keywords_tid=side%20by%20side&sort_by=title&sort_order=ASC&items_per_page=5)

**See the Vertical Alignment Documents here:**

[http://projectsharetexas.org/resource/revised-mathematics-teks-vertical-alignment-charts?field\\_resource\\_keywords\\_tid=vertical%20alignment&sort\\_by=title&sort\\_order=ASC&items\\_per\\_page=5](http://projectsharetexas.org/resource/revised-mathematics-teks-vertical-alignment-charts?field_resource_keywords_tid=vertical%20alignment&sort_by=title&sort_order=ASC&items_per_page=5)

## From Dual 2 Degree Initiative

### STEM High School Dual Enrollment Academy Programs

It is critical to implement programs to encourage completion of high school and college early in a student's academic career. STC proposes to increase the number of Hispanic students entering the engineering, computer science, and biological sciences by offering the Dual Enrollment Engineering (DEEA), Computer Science (DECSA) and Medical Science (DEMSA) academy programs. The academies create opportunities for successful high school and Associate of Science degree completion simultaneously, which translate to an increase in Hispanic engineering, computer science and biological sciences professionals.

The DEEA, DECSA and DEMSA programs, which encourage early commitment by predominantly minority high school students to careers in STEM, are two-year dual enrollment academies designed for high school juniors in Hidalgo and Starr counties. Students enroll in engineering, computer science or biological science careers through dual enrollment college coursework and STEM related activities as they prepare for higher education and careers in their chosen field. Academy students, completing the program earn their Associate of Science degrees in Engineering, Computer Science or Biology before the end of their senior year in high school.

Students are exposed to a wide array of academic, personal and college-knowledge workshops that take place on Fridays during the two academic years. The academies offer students academic support services that include: individual/group tutoring; individual/group academic advising; statewide college site visits; summer/year-round volunteer medical field opportunities; university presentations; local engineering, computer science and medical professional guest speaker seminars; 4-year university transition assistance; scholarship search workshops; career awareness; case management sessions and numerous engineering, computer science and health related event participation.

STC has an established and documented commitment to its academies. In an effort to increase access to higher education for Hispanic students, the STC Board of Trustees and the President approved a policy to waive all tuition and fees for students in the academies. STC has a strong partnership with all the 54 high school sites that the college serves. High school principals and counselors

work closely with the office of STC High School Programs and Services to market, recruit and retain academy students.

Throughout the development, expansion and continuous improvement of the academies, STC found that working in partnership with school districts, universities, parents and the community of professionals has been a key component to the success of our academy program. We set the STEM challenge to all our community students, and they responded with overwhelming enthusiasm and success in meeting that challenge.

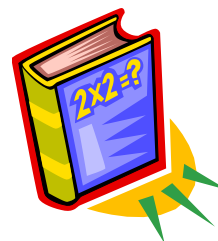


### Deadline to Correct Errors in New Textbooks

New instructional materials will be adopted in 2013-2014 for use starting in 2014-2015 for the following subjects:

- Mathematics grades K-8
- Spanish Mathematics grades K-5
- Science grades K-12
- Spanish Science grades K-5
- Technology Applications grades K-12

The deadline for Texas residents to file lists of alleged factual errors in instructional materials under consideration for adoption is 5:00 PM CDT on September 6, 2013. For more information about the textbook adoption process see Textbooks and Proclamation 2014 in the TEA website (<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=3373>). The textbooks have been available online for review by the public since May 2013. For access to the textbooks online, contact Maria Ovalle at [movalle@esc1.net](mailto:movalle@esc1.net) at the Region One Education Service Center (ESC).





Rio Grande Valley  
Council of Teachers of Mathematics

## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual RGVCTM Mathematics Conference

The University of Texas – Pan American, Edinburg, TX

November 9, 2013

### Individual Registration Form

ADVANCED REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE - OCTOBER 4, 2013

On-Site Registration - 7:30 a.m. located 1<sup>st</sup> floor MAGC Bldg.

Conference 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Advanced Registration Fee - \$50.00

On – Site/Post Deadline Registration Fee - \$60.00

Registration forms must be submitted to Lucy Muñoz via email at [hlucymh@aol.com](mailto:hlucymh@aol.com) on or before the registration deadline, Friday, October 4, 2013. Pre-registered participants will receive a program approximately 2 weeks prior to the conference date.

**Send check or purchase order to the address listed below. Make checks payable to RGVCTM.**

Lucy Muñoz  
906 Jay Drive S.  
Mission, TX 78573

Phone: Home (956) 867-0456

Fax: (888) 435-8303

#### Method of Payment:

Personal Check # \_\_\_\_\_ District Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order # \_\_\_\_\_

If method of payment is a school Purchase Order (PO), please complete the following:

Name of Contact Person Responsible for PO \_\_\_\_\_ PO# \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

**Please type or print (This form must be filled out completely.):**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_ Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level(s): \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ School Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cancellations/Refunds:** Cancellations received on or before 10/04/2013 will be refunded, less a \$10 cancellation fee. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after 10/04/2013.

# Betty Rountree Education Grant

The RGVCTM offers several \$800 grants to potential and current mathematics teachers each academic school year. Our goal is to assist individuals who plan continued study leading toward a mathematics teaching certification or who desire to continue studies in undergraduate and/or graduate work in mathematics or mathematics education. Teachers or paraprofessionals who are current members of RGVCTM and have successfully completed a college level mathematics or mathematics education course may apply for a grant. A member may receive, at most, one grant during each year. The grant money is to be used to help defray tuition and textbook costs for any mathematics or mathematics education course.

<b>RGVCTM's Betty Rountree Grant Application</b>	Date of Application _____
Name of Applicant _____	
Position _____	Grade Level _____
Years of Experience _____	Work Phone _____
District _____	
Campus _____	
Home Address _____ _____	
Home Phone _____	
College or university in which you are enrolled _____	
Name of mathematics course in which you are enrolled _____	
Date or expected date of completion of course _____	
Winners must submit proof (e.g. transcript, report card) of completion to receive award.	
Please state the need for this grant (financial/academic) and the benefits to be expected from your successful completion of the course in which you are enrolled. If needed, use additional sheets.	
_____	
_____	
_____	
Send application to Velma Sanchez, 4010 N. Juniper, Pharr, TX 78577.	