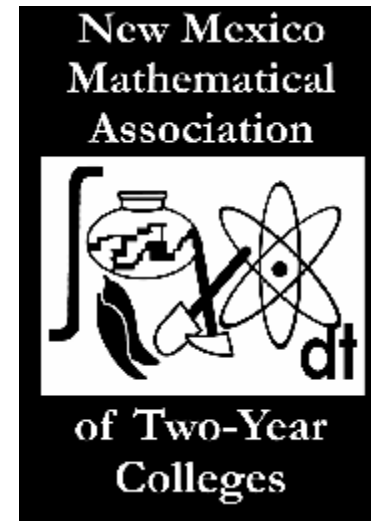




Ivette Chuca

NMMATYC Newsletter Editor
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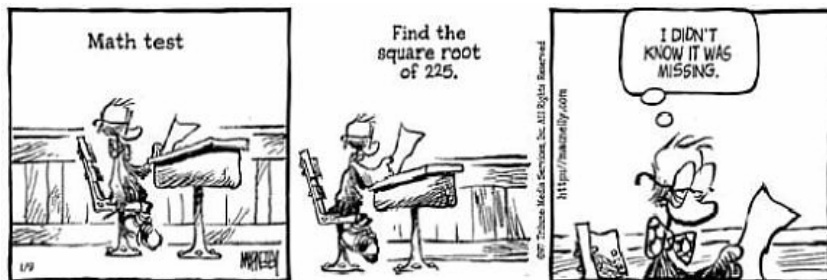


NMMATYC News

October 29, 2004

Volume 16

Issue 1



<http://www.charlottemathtutor.com/htmlfile/cartoons.html>

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NMMATYC News

Volume 16

Issue 1



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President's Message Ellen Schneider

It's hard to believe how quickly the fall semester is passing. I hope everyone is having a productive and enjoyable academic year.

It was nice to see so many of you at the NMMATYC conference last May in Santa Fe. Thanks again to Dane Reese and Mary Ellen Gallegos for organizing a great conference. I especially enjoyed Richard Aufmann's keynote address on historical misconceptions of 0 and other interesting facts. (By the way, have any of you solved the puzzler about crossing the bridge that Aufmann posed during his speech?)

I hope many of you will be able to attend the AMATYC conference in Orlando, Florida, November 18-21. It looks as though the hurricanes have finally settled down, so the weather should cooperate. The theme of the conference is *Bright Ideas: Communicate, Calculate, Educate*. There are many sessions and workshops that have piqued my interest, so it will not be easy deciding which ones to attend. If you would like to view the program or need any information about the conference, go to www.amatyc.org. As a reminder, if you do attend the AMATYC conference, all NMMATYC members and their guests are invited to join the annual Saturday night NMMATYC social.

President's Message

Continued...

ELLEN SCHNEIDER

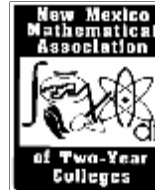
If you are unfamiliar with this tradition, interested members meet for dinner at a local restaurant after the conclusion of the Delegate Assembly. I will post the location and meeting time of the dinner on the message board at the conference.

As you read this newsletter, you will notice that the NMMATYC Executive Board is sponsoring a 'design a T-shirt contest'. We would like to have some new T-shirts for our organization, so you may either enter the fun T-shirt contest or the logo T-shirt contest (you may even enter both contests). Prizes will be awarded (including a free T-shirt), so all you creative and artistic members get to work!

The NMMATYC Executive Board has been busy this fall. We met in September and will meet again in November. We have already begun the preparations for the 16th Annual NMMATYC conference that will be held May 19-21 at NMSU-Alamogordo. The theme of this conference will be *Exploring the Mathematical Galaxy*. And no, it is not too early to mark your calendar! Janet Delgado is the conference chair, so contact her if you have any questions or want to volunteer to help with the conference.

The next newsletter will be published in the spring. This is *your* newsletter, so please submit articles or other tidbits of information that you would like to share with your colleagues from NMMATYC.

I have enjoyed my first six months as NMMATYC President. If you have any questions or comments concerning NMMATYC, please let me know.



14 Years of NMMATYC History

by Rockford Burris



On February 2, 1990, a group of educators from across New Mexico met at TV-I in Albuquerque to discuss establishing guidelines for affiliation with AMATYC. On April 6, 1990, the group met to edit the draft of NMMATYC's constitution and by-laws and to plan the charter conference. The group consisted of the following individuals:

Vicky Aldrich	NMSU-Dona Ana Campus
Bunnie Benalli	Albuquerque TV-I
Kitty Berver	NMSU – Las Cruces
Terry Cleveland	NMMI
Michele Diel	UNM – Valencia
Vicki Froehlich	TV-I
Rita Gonzalez	NMSU – Dona Ana Campus
Jim Gentry	NMSU – Carlsbad Campus
Roberta Himebrook	NMSU – Alamogordo Campus
Marilyn Mays	AMATYC Representative
John Pantano	Santa Fe Community College
Mary Robinson	NMSU – Grants Campus
Jerry Rogers	NMSU – Las Cruces
Mary Sittel	NMSU – Alamogordo Campus
Dennis Vargo	SIPI

33rd the top three New Mexico individuals on the 2001-2002

The group also adopted our logo, which was conceived by Sharon MacKendrick and designed by Robert Conine, an art instructor at NMSU Grants. The logo represents the mathematical process of integration, integrating the New Mexico cultures, the Spanish, Native American, farming, and scientific culture of our state over time.

On September 14, 1990, the Chartering Conference was held at TV-I in Albuquerque. The theme was “Creative Solutions to Common Problems.” The keynote speaker was Karl Smith, a past-president of AMATYC. At this conference Max Cisneros was elected President; Sharon MacKendrick was elected President-elect; John Pantano was elected Secretary; and, Vicki Froehlich was elected Treasurer.

NMMATYC’s 2nd conference was held in the spring of 1991 in conjunction with the MAA in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The conference’s theme was “Mathematics as a Second Language.” The invited speakers were Ray C. Shiftlett, the Executive Director for the Mathematical Sciences Education Board, and Dr. Stephen Rodi, Division Chair, Mathematics and Physical Sciences at Austin Community College, Rio Grande Campus. Michele Diel chaired the Ad-Hoc committee, which defined the developmental mathematics competencies at the two-year college level.

On June 12 – 14, 1992, NMMATYC’s 3rd conference was held in conjunction with the first AMATYC Southwest Regional Conference at the Albuquerque Marriott. Other affiliate organizations from Arizona, Oklahoma, and Texas, as well as math educators from Colorado and across the nation attended this conference. The theme was “Equity in Mathematics Education – Access for All.” The keynote speaker was Dr. Uri Treisman from the University of California at Berkley. At the end of this conference, Sharon MacKendrick assumed the President’s responsibilities.

NMMATYC members elected Mary Robinson, President-elect; Vicki Froehlich, Secretary; and Rita Gonzalez, Treasurer.

More than 35 mathematics educators from around the state and region attended the 4th conference held in Grants on May 21 – 22, 1993. The conference’s theme was “Change in Course Content and Curriculum – C⁴.” This conference had 13 presentations with the keynote address given by Peter Georgakis from Santa Barbara City College, Santa Barbara, California.

The 5th Conference was held at NMMI in Roswell, New Mexico on June 3 – 4, 1994. The theme was “Mathematics Reform and Technology.” Dr. Bill Leonard, Professor of Mathematics from the University of California, Fullerton, gave the keynote address. Dr. Leonard’s topic at the banquet was entitled “Tasting and Testing.” Michele Diel’s previous Ad-Hoc committee developed into the Curriculum Pedagogical Reform Committee whose influence was felt by AMATYC. Mary Robinson assumed the President’s duties and NMMATYC members elected Rita Gonzalez, President-elect; Roberta Himebrook, Secretary; and Michele Diel, Treasurer. Six new Ad-Hoc committees were initiated to deal with important issues concerning mathematics at two-year colleges.

The 6th conference was held at Santa Fe Community College on March 31 and April 1, 1995. The theme was “Innovative Teaching Strategies.” There were 24 sessions, seven of which were two-hour workshops. There were 120 attendees with six publishers being represented. This was the first time the Articulation group met in conjunction with the NMMATYC conference and the Articulation Liaison

became a member of the NMMATYC board. The keynote speaker was Pat McKeague and he spoke on “Linking Topics in Developmental Mathematics.”

The theme of the 7th NMMATYC Conference was “The Crossroads: Where Are We?” It was held at San Juan College in Farmington on May 31 and June 1, 1996. Marilyn Mays was the keynote speaker. Rita Gonzalez became the President while the members elected Roberta Himebrook, President-elect; Sandra Rieke, Secretary; and Terry Cleveland, Treasurer. Mary Robinson established the NMMATYC Listserv, which is still in use today. NMMATYC started awarding the top three New Mexico students and first place team on the Student Math League competition. During the summer of 1996, Bill Pletsch was instrumental in obtaining NMMATYC’s first National Science Foundation Grant - The New Mexico Initiative for Math Reform.

Albuquerque TV-I was the host for the 8th conference on May 30 – 31, 1997. It was preceded by a workshop from the NSF Grant that NMMATYC sponsored. The theme was “Trends in Contemporary Mathematics.” Bert Waits from Ohio State University was the keynote speaker. He also presented a four-hour workshop on the TI-92 graphing calculator. There were 3 two-hour workshops and 24 hour-long presentations.

The theme of the 9th NMMATYC Conference was “Building Equity in Mathematics Education.” Dona Ana Branch Community College was the host for the conference on May 29 – 30, 1998. Another New Mexico Initiative for Math Reform workshop preceded the conference. The keynote address “Building on Foundation for Equity in Mathematics Education” was presented by Dr. Julian Weissglass, Professor for

the Department of Mathematics from the University of California, Santa Barbara. The first David Lovelock Teaching Excellence Award was given to Peter Steinbach and Bette Berry. Roberta Himebrook became President while the NMMATYC Conference attendees elected Bill Pletsch, President-elect; Sandy Rieke, Secretary; and Patricio Rojas, Treasure. Conference information and registration forms were available on the NMMATYC web page for the first time.

NMMATYC’s 10-year birthday celebration was started at the 10th conference hosted by NMSU at Alamogordo on May 20 – 22, 1999. A pre-conference program included tours that highlighted local attractions. The conference theme was “Soar Into the 21st Century with Mathematical Excellence.” Marilyn Mays was the keynote speaker. Her presentation was entitled “Charting a Flight Plan for the 21st Century.” The first Michelle Jimenez Memorial Scholarship, a \$500 cash award, was presented to Kathryn Klaene.

The yearlong birthday celebration for NMMATYC being 10 years old ended at the 11th conference. UNM Valencia was host to NMMATYC members and guests on May 19 – 20, 2000. The conference theme was “Synthesizing Mathematics: Problems and Solutions.” Conference attendees were treated to a visual display of unique quilts displaying several geometric patterns and designs as well as paper plate geometric figures. A new award that was presented at this conference was the Celeste Nossiter Textbook Award, which is a \$100 cash award. This award was presented to Glenda Chavez. The Michelle Jimenez Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Caroline Kohrs. Eleanor Barber from El Paso Community College received the David Lovelock Teaching Excellence Award. The

NMMATYC Hall of Fame for Teaching Excellence was established. Dr. Jimmy Smith from NMSU-A is our first inductee. Bill Pletsch started his term as President while NMMATYC members attending the conference elected Rockford Burris, President-elect; Lucille Farrington, Secretary; and Patricio Rojas, Treasurer.

The 12th Annual NMMATYC conference was a joint conference with the Applications of Computer Algebra (ACA) organization. The ACA is an international organization whose focus is on solving important problems in science, engineering, and mathematics using computer algebra. It was held on the campus of Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute on May 31 – June 3, 2001. The conference theme was “A Mathematical Odyssey.” There were approximately 81 ACA attendees and 115 NMMATYC attendees at the joint conference. Conference attendees were treated to trips to the Very Large Array, west of Socorro, New Mexico and to Santa Fe, New Mexico. This year’s conference had seminars, workshops, and committee meetings that approximately totaled to 100 presentations for these two organizations. During the banquet at El Pinto Restaurant, several awards were given. The Celeste Nossiter Textbook Award, a \$100 Cash award was presented to Nancy Welliver, a student from El Paso Community College. The Michelle Jimenez Scholarship was presented to Glenda Chavez, a student from UNM Valencia. The team standings for the 2000 – 2001 Student Math League Competition in the state of New Mexico was awarded as follows: 1st place, NMSU at Alamogordo; 2nd Place, UNM-Gallup; and, 3rd Place, UNM-Valencia. Awards for the top three individuals on the 2000 – 2001 SML competition was presented to Geraldine Black from UNM-Gallup for 1st high score, Sara Qassem from

UNM-Valencia for 2nd high score, and Robert Gueth from NMSU at Alamogordo for 3rd high score. Deborah Hughes-Hallett was the keynote speaker at this year’s conference. Also, at the banquet, the NMMATYC board inducted Dr. Terry Cleveland into the NMMATYC Hall of Fame for teaching excellence.

NMMATYC’s 13th conference was a joint conference with TexMATYC on May 17-18, 2002. It was held at the Transmountain Campus of El Paso Community College in El Paso, Texas. The theme of the conference was “The Road to the Future is an Understanding of the Past”. There were approximately 130 attendees which included members of both organizations and several publishing representatives. There were 30 presentations and 3 keynote addresses. Mark Dugopolski who spoke on “The Evolution of the Word Problem”, Tom Carson spoke on “Where are We Now”, and Richard Aufmann spoke on “Technology in Math Education: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.” Bill Pletsch gave a pre-conference workshop titled “Don’t be Technological Road Kill.” Nancy Welliver, a student at El Paso Community College, was awarded the 2002-2003 Michelle Jimenez Memorial Scholarship. Luisa Trujillo, a student at UNM-Valencia, received the Celeste Nossiter Textbook Award. Sharon MacKendrick from NMSU-Grants was inducted into the NMMATYC Hall of Fame for Mathematics Teaching excellence. Sinnathamby Pankayatselvan was awarded the David Lovelock Award for Teaching Excellence.

The team standings for the 2001-2002 Student Math League (SML) Competition in the state of New Mexico was awarded as follows: 1st place, UNM-Gallup; 2nd place, UNM-Valencia; 3rd place, NMSU-Alamogordo. Awards for

the top three New Mexico individuals on the 2001-2002 SML competition were presented to Natalia Varezkin from UNM-Gallup for 1st high score, Sarah Qassem from UNM-Valencia for 2nd high score, and John Hymer from NMSU-Alamogordo for 3rd high score. At the end of the conference Rockford Burriss assumed his duties as President of NMMATYC and the officers elected by a mail ballot assumed their duties. The officers elected were: Ellen Schneider, President-elect; Mary Ellen Gallegos, Secretary; and Bob Skaar, Treasurer. The conference attendees had a barbeque at the Tom Mays Unit in the Franklin Mountains State Park on Thursday evening before the start of the conference. AMATYC sponsored a regional conference concerning teacher preparation on May 18-19, 2002 after our NMMATYC conference where several NMMATYC and TexMATYC members were invited to participate.

The 14th NMMATYC conference was held on May 30-31, 2003 in Farmington on the San Juan College Campus. The theme of the conference was "Creating Connections." There were 50 conference attendees, 4 publishing representatives, and numerous guests. Jim Trefzger, Professor of Mathematics at Parkland College, Champaign Illinois was the keynote speaker. The keynote address was titled: "Reaching Students by Making Verbal, Operational, and Applied Mathematical Connections." There were 17 total presentations which included the following: "The Conic Sections: Parametrically", "Linear Functions Activities", "Probability and Statistics: Kicking 'Em Up a Notch", "Diagnostics: The Key to Individualizing Instruction in Developmental Math."

Lillian Quintana, a student from New Mexico State University-Grants, was awarded the 2003 - 2004 Michelle

Jimenez Memorial Scholarship. Juana Roman-de Smet, a student from El Paso Community College received the Celeste Nossiter Textbook Award.

The pre-conference attendees went on a tour of Chaco Canyon after the morning workshop given by Dennis Vargo from Albuquerque TVI and Lynn Onken from San Juan College titled: "Teaching Algebra via the Internet.

The team standing for the 2002 – 2003 Student Math League (SML) Competition in the state of New Mexico was awarded as follows: 1st place, Albuquerque TVI; 2nd place, NMSU-Alamogordo; 3rd place, NMSU-Grants. Awards for the top 3 individual scores in New Mexico on the 2002-2003 SML competition were presented to : Carleton Gumbs-Gossett from Albuquerque TVI for 1st High Score; Wei Song from NMSU-Alamogordo for 2nd High Score; and we had a tie for the 3rd High Score between Patrick Sims from NMSU-Alamogordo and John Williamson from Albuquerque TVI.

NMMATYC's 15th conference was held on May 21-22, 2004 in, "The City Different", Santa Fe on the Santa Fe Community College Campus. The theme of the conference was "Mathematical Interdiscipline Interaction." Noted author and mathematician Richard Aufmann was the keynote speaker. The keynote address was titled: "0÷0=0 and Other Interesting "Facts". There were 18 total presentations which included the following: "Making Math Interesting: Using Technology", "Lies My Graphing Calculator Told Me", "The Math of Least Resistance: Mathematical Voice Versus Student Retention", "The G.E.D. Math Student", "Using Concept Tests to Enhance Classroom Interaction", "Start Your Class with a Problem to Solve, Not a Lecture", and "All About Histograms".

Patrick Dixon, a student from New Mexico State University-Grants, was awarded the 2004 - 2005 Michelle Jimenez Memorial Scholarship. Chryssa Charalambides, a student from Santa Fe Community College received the Celeste Nossiter Textbook Award.

The pre-conference workshop given by James Taylor from the Santa Fe Institute was titled: "Model Worlds: Motivating Mathematics Through Growth Processes". The workshop was well attended on Thursday afternoon. The team standing for the 2003 – 2004 Student Math League (SML) Competition in the state of New Mexico was awarded as follows: 1st place, Albuquerque TVI; 2nd place, NMSU-Grants; 3rd place, NMSU- Alamogordo. Awards for the top 3 individual scores in New Mexico on the 2002-2003 SML competition were presented to: Patrick Dixon from Santa Fe Community College for 1st High Score; Wei Song from

NMSU-Alamogordo for 2nd High Score; and Carleton Gumbs-Gossett from Albuquerque TVI.

Roberta Himebrook, Professor of Mathematics at New Mexico State University received the David Lovelock Teaching Excellence Award.

At the end of the conference Ellen Schneider assumed duties of President and Rockford Burris assumed the duties of Past-President. The other officers elected by NMMATYC members by ballot assumed their duties. This includes Gordon DeSpain from San Juan College as President-Elect, Dane Reese from Santa Fe Community College as Secretary, and Mary Ellen Gallegos from Santa Fe Community College as Treasurer.

NMMATYC members appointed to the NMMATYC Board include: Ivette Chuca from El Paso Community College as Newsletter Editor, Mary Caffey from Clovis Community College as Nominating Chair, Marlene Chavez-Toivanen from New Mexico State University-Grants as Membership Chair, Joanne Peebles from El Paso Community College as AMATYC Delegate, Janet Delgado from New Mexico State University-Alamogordo as 2005 Conference Chair, Rene Sierra from Dona Ana Branch Community College as 2006 Conference Chair, and Seth Abrahamson from San Juan College as Articulation Task Force Liaison.



The Parabolic Experience

Construction Conic Sections in the Math Class

By Matt Williams
Belen High School
Belen, NM

Mathematics in the classroom is all too often taught with lecture and written homework, which leads, in many cases, to immeasurable boredom. Why not take math concepts and apply them to the real world? We are telling our students that math can be applied to the “real world” but do we show them through practice how it is? Break away from the book every once in a while and do a major project that shows the utility of our understanding and the power of this great subject. The following is a few projects that I have done in the last couple of years with my students. They have totally enjoyed the hands on experience and have learned a great deal of why and how we apply mathematics in our present age.

The Very Small Array (VSA) was engineered and fabricated by three Algebra II classes. We started with an equation of a parabola, knowing the vertex and foci for our given situation. We then graphed the parabola and spun it around the y-axis to make a three dimensional object. We then sliced this paraboloid such that the slices were that of discs parallel to the x-axis. These discs had a thickness of $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch.

With these disc measurements we created discs out of $\frac{3}{8}$ ths inch drywall. Stacking up the pieces of drywall in the correct order we started to make a mold for a concrete dish. The students then put drywall mud on the stacked discs to smooth it out and make the surface parabolic.

We designed a drill-bit that was a 2 by 12 piece of wood. This drill bit was cut such that the parabola, the one we were using, was cut out of it.

This allowed us to coat the cut part of the wood with sand paper and spin it on top of the mold, with a drill, and sand the surface to be perfectly parabolic. We then set this part of the mold on a platform and bordered the edge, leaving a 4-inch gap between the boarder and the mold. This completed the mold.

The construction of the dish itself consisted of 52 feet of $\frac{3}{8}$ ths inch rebar that was measured and bent to the contours of the dish. We then made a back plate out of steel and welded it to a pipe within a pipe (the inside pipe was longer than the outside pipe so that it may slip inside a pipe coming out of the ground letting it rotate 360 deg.) This metal plate connected to the concrete by 4 anchor bolts protruding from the concrete.

The total weight of this dish is 540 pounds. Each are made to rotate 360 degrees. The dishes are in a line spanning a total distance of 84 feet (with the middle one at 42 feet from each of the outer ones). The accuracy of these dishes is great. A person can whisper at the focus of the southern one and another person can listen at the northern one and hear exactly what is being said. Doppler radar can be discussed with these dishes as well as most properties of sound. This project was done to explore conic sections and their properties.

These dishes are for school use for students to explore the connection between math and science. These dishes are modeled after the VLA (Very Large Array) near Magdalena, NM which explore the universes cosmic rays.

Two years after this my students began the parabolic experience by creating a parabolic out reach to the elementary schools. The idea was, now that we have three parabolic dishes on campus that can be used by anyone walking by, why not educate the students who will use them, the elementary students. So we got to work. We wanted to make lightweight dishes so that the teachers from K-9 could use them in the classroom.

So we pondered all the possibilities and asked which schools in the district wanted to participate in this outreach. Eight schools jumped in.

We constructed the molds for this project by pouring Plaster of Paris into the concrete dishes that had been taken down because of site construction. We ended up getting two good molds.

We coated the mold with tinfoil, gave it a wire skeleton much like the rebar in the concrete version and sprayed liquid foam to add to its stability.

My students made posters for the elementary students so that they would know how to use them. I had student volunteers take the dishes to the elementary schools and demonstrate how to use them. Principals, staff and students totally enjoyed parabolic dishes and hopefully they will use them for years to come.

I also had a class that wanted to do something different so we decided to make a parabolic trough, a solar hot water heater. With donated Styrofoam and stainless steel sheet metal we created a parabolic trough that heated water so hot that when the water came out it was too hot for your hand!

My students had a great time applying their knowledge of parabolas to both of these projects and frequently walk by and tell me how they are seeing parabolas everywhere they look.

The biggest plus about doing projects like this is that the students see how important and powerful their understanding of math is. They begin to see that math is not just a subject that is in a textbook, but they see that math is the tools for humans to create and understand everything in this universe! Once they understand how important math is then they will grow to hunger for it and not fear it.

If you would like to do something like the “Parabolic Experience” in your classroom please don’t hesitate to call or e-mail me at (505)-966-1300 or williamsm@belen.k12.nm.us or getfoci@msn.com.



Matt Williams showing his VSA at the 2004 NMMATYC Conference.



NMMATYC Participant trying out the VSA





NMMATYC T-SHIRT CONTEST

By Ivette Chuca



The NMMATYC Executive Board decided at the last board meeting to have a 'design a T-shirt contest'. There will be two different categories for the contest. The first category is to design a fun t-shirt. For example, I once saw a T-shirt that said the following:

Have your p
$$(p^4 + p^5)^{\frac{1}{6}} = 2.71828 \dots$$

and e it too!

The second category is a more formal T-shirt which must include the NMMATYC logo. You may enter both categories. We encourage you to encourage your students to enter the contests. Deadline for the contest will be at the end of December.

In each category the winner will receive \$25 and a T-shirt.

For more information, please contact anyone on the NMMATYC Board. Contact information is on page 2 of the newsletter. Good luck to everyone who enters the contest.



Life is good for only two things, discovering mathematics and teaching mathematics.

Simeon Poisson



New Mexico Mathematical Association Of Two-Year Colleges



Michelle Jimenez Memorial Scholarship \$600.00 Award for the 2005-2006 Academic Year

Student must have:

- Completed a Minimum of 12 Credit Hours
(6 hours must be from a New Mexico or El Paso 2-year college)
- Maintained an Overall GPA of 3.2
- Completed at Least Two of the Following Courses:
Trigonometry/ Pre-calculus
Statistics
Calculus
- Maintained a 3.5 Cumulative GPA in All Math Courses

Requirements:

- Completed Application
- Personal Statement
(Describe why you feel you should receive a scholarship from a math organization and how receiving it will help you to achieve your goals. This statement must be typed.)
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation
(at least one from a math instructor)
- Official Academic Transcript

Required Materials Must Be Received by **April 8, 2005**

Download the application form at <http://nm.matyc.org>

Wanted:

Students to apply for the Michelle Jimenez Memorial Scholarship

The announcement for the 2005-2006 Michelle Jimenez Memorial Scholarship is attached to this newsletter. Please help get the word out to your students about this scholarship!! Please post this announcement in your office, on your door, in classrooms, etc.

Upcoming Conferences

AMATYC Annual Conference
November 18-21, 2004
Orlando, Florida
Website: <http://www.amatyc.org>

NMMATYC Annual Conference
May 19-21, 2005



Ivette Chuca
NMMATYC Newsletter Editor
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<http://www.charlottesmathtutor.com/htmlfile/cartoons.html>