



TexMATYC News

Texas Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

Fall 2021

President's Message



Hello TexMATYC members!

Welcome to the Fall of 2021! I hope this newsletter finds you and your families healthy and safe. I also hope that you were able to take some time during the summer to rest and refresh yourself for the new year. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all – as faculty and our students; with the need to take mental breaks, perhaps more often, and to continue to support each other as we move forward.

We can support our students by continuing to practice flexibility and grace. We can also make efforts to

connect with our students to check-in with them and provide supports when needed. Creating positive relationships with our students and showing them that we care can go a long way in supporting students' mental health and performance in our classes.

In the same way, we want to support each other as faculty by checking-in with each other. Reach out to a faculty member that you haven't seen in a while and ask them how they are doing. Learn new tools or teaching strategies. There have been so many innovative and creative ways to approach our teaching in the virtual environment that we can continue to utilize as we move back to in-person teaching. Offering online office hours, providing short videos of course content in the learning management system, and implementing technology in the classroom are just a few of those strategies that we will continue to see as we move forward. Ask a colleague what new strategy that they have learned over the last year!

I look forward to visiting with you in person or virtually at the upcoming AMATYC conference in Phoenix, Arizona in October! And looking ahead to the TCCTA Annual Convention in March 2022 in Frisco, the executive board is busy putting together sessions to continue our conversations of student success in mathematics. This is going to be a wonderful year!

Sonia Petch
TexMATYC President



News from AMATYC Southwest VP



Hello TexMATYC! I hope you are getting settled in for the fall semester and that things are moving forward smoothly! Whether you are teaching in-person, remote, online, hybrid, or HyFlex, I hope you are finding ways to stay excited about teaching

mathematics and energized for the future.

I'm excited to say that our AMATYC Annual Conference will be held in person in my (current) hometown of Phoenix, AZ on October 28-31 at the Sheraton Downtown Phoenix hotel. We are super excited to see all our AMATYC frolleagues (colleagues who are friends!) in real life! If you are heading to the conference, please know that masks will be required indoors at all times during the conference. Certainly, AMATYC is taking steps to mitigate risk of spreading COVID, including reducing touchpoints, maintaining social distancing, etc. For more information, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3jx72yeh>. As you plan for the conference, please consider fitting in some wonderful opportunities to explore Phoenix! We have a lot of great information compiled for you here: <https://sites.google.com/asu.edu/2021-az-amatyc/local-home> that includes places to see, things to do, and culinary delights to try!

Whether you are heading to Phoenix for the conference or not, we hope you might consider donating to our community project.

This year, we are focusing on raising funds to support the amazing kids at the Kamanzi Secondary School in Kenya. These funds will go towards the purchase of new school uniforms and menstrual hygiene products – both of these issues remain obstacles for students to attend school, so we wish to remove barriers in support of their education. I have personally toured the Kamanzi Secondary School in 2019 with my frolleague, Patrick Kimani, Math Faculty at Glendale Community College (AZ). The kids are amazing! Check out the pic to the right that I took during my visit. Please consider donating and touch a life around the world!



<https://sites.google.com/asu.edu/2021-az-amatyc/community-project>

I also wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the wonderful opportunity to serve as your AMATYC Southwest Vice President these last 4 years. I am excited to support the new, incoming SW VP this January (whomever that might be!) and I invite you to consider getting involved in AMATYC leadership in the future. The professional growth and expanded networking are truly amazing opportunities and leaders like you are needed in AMATYC!

(continued on Page 3)

Finally, if you or your colleagues have never been a member of AMATYC and would like to join, please reach out to me at april.strom@cgc.edu. I can provide you with a first-time member discount code for 50% off a one-year membership. A great deal for all new AMATYC members!

 Join the **AMATYC Southwest Regional Group** on Facebook!

Enjoy the fall – wishing you all lots of love, laughter, and math!

April Ström

Vice President AMATYC Southwest Region
Chandler-Gilbert Community College, AZ



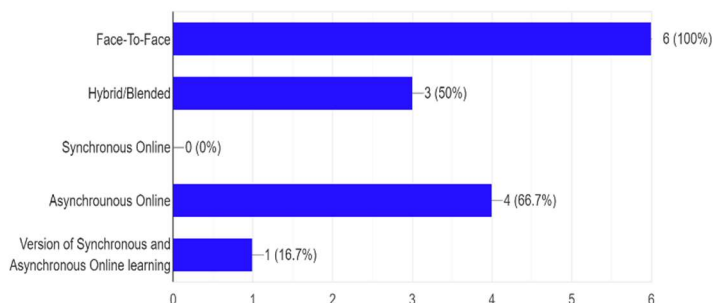
TexMATYC Survey

At the beginning of the fall 2021 semester, a survey was sent out to the TexMATYC members to gauge what their start up plans for the new school year were, and how their teaching strategies may have changed during the pandemic.

A total of six responses was received. Here are the results of the survey:

What modalities are you planning to teach in this upcoming fall semester? (Check all that apply.)

6 responses



What new teaching strategies do you plan to continue using this coming year?

- Implementing Technology in the classroom.
- A lot more give and take with assignments.
- Mini lecture recorded for student use.
- Focus on discussion boards more in my online courses to build a better sense of community.
- Use of Zoom for office hours and tutoring.

What is something that you learned during the pandemic that you would like to share with others?

- To be very flexible.
- Not everything has been a negative, learning has happened and we as instructors have to adjust but it just proves that we and students are resilient and can do anything we set our minds too.
- It is important to be flexible.

What tools have you used in the last year that you plan to continue using this year?

Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Pearson MyLab and Mastering, YouTube, VidGrid, Canvas.

THECB Updates

- 87th Legislature. The Summary of Higher Education Legislation for the 2021 Texas legislative session can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/952pmtj6>
- Resources for the TSI Assessment 2.0 (TSIA2) such as test specifications and scoring guides can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yjymdf4n>



Teaching Tips

The Chronicle recently published an article on strategies to adjusting to another semester on campus during the pandemic. Some of the takeaways from the article include:

- Keep it simple
- Online tools continue to be useful
- Connection is foundational of learning
- Rethink the classroom

The full article titled "Teaching: Remaining Flexible Without Burning Out" can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/dm3k256f>.

AMATYC Student Research League

This year's Student Research League competition was held March 12–29. The students solved a Challenge Problem titled "Mission to Mars - What's for Dinner?" The teams used mathematical modeling to determine the optimal crew composition for the mission and created a plan to satisfy food requirements for the journey and colonization.

Congratulations to the regional winners from Texas:

Jacob Ruiz, Jorge Ramirez, Amr Ojeh (Lone Star College-CyFair)

Parker Tew, Arnoldo Montanez, Eduardo Ornelas Cabello (Midland College)

TexMATYC Board Openings

TexMATYC is currently accepting nominations for three of its Executive Board positions:

- **President-Elect**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**

The President-Elect position is a two-year term with subsequent two-year roles as TexMATYC President and Past President. The Secretary and Treasurer positions are two-year terms, with the possibility of running for additional terms.

This is a great statewide service opportunity!

(continued on Page 5)



If you, or someone you know, is interested in being part of TexMATYC, please email their name, institution, and position interested to Sonia Petch at sipetch@collin.edu.

Voting for the new board positions will take place in Spring 2022.

TexMATYC Wants You!

The Texas Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (TexMATYC) is the affiliate organization of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) and provides professional development and professional policy guidance for mathematics teachers of two-year colleges. It is our goal to offer various opportunities for the preparation and development of Texas mathematics faculty in andragogy and policy guidance from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

Membership is merely \$10 per year or \$150 for a lifetime membership! All you have to do is visit our website: www.texmatyc.org and click on "Join Now." Payments can be made online with a credit/debit card or via PayPal.

Membership Benefits:

- Have your thoughts, concerns and interests represented at the AMATYC conference
- Receive up-to-date news and discussion regarding current trends in mathematics education in Texas
- TexMATYC Newsletter two times per year with legislative updates and changes from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, highlights of exciting programs at various Texas community colleges, and information regarding professional development opportunities

- Annual TexMATYC conference (held in conjunction with TCCTA), where there'll be plenty of networking with other educators, professional development opportunities and great speaker presentations.

We hope that you'll consider joining TexMATYC and contributing to our organization. We look forward to working alongside all our members for this upcoming year!

Upcoming Conferences

- **AMATYC Conference***
October 28-31, 2021.
Phoenix, AZ
- **T3AMS** (Texas Association of Academic Administrators in Mathematical Sciences)
October 29, 2021. 4pm – 7pm
Virtual
- **Joint Mathematics Meetings** (AMS/MAA)
January 5-8, 2022.
Seattle, WA
- **TexMATYC/TCCTA Convention**
March 3-5, 2022.
Frisco, TX

* This year's AMATYC Annual Conference will include two virtual days! The main conference will be held in-person October 28–31 in Phoenix, and then the conference will continue virtually on Friday and Saturday, November 5–6. Registration for Phoenix will include the two virtual days at no extra cost. For those who are unable to attend in Phoenix, you can still join the two virtual days for a virtual-only registration fee of \$25 for AMATYC members or \$125 for non-members.



Got News?

If you know of any exciting news or events happening in the world of mathematics, have it published in the next TexMATYC Newsletter!

Submit your articles to Kyle Kundomal at kkundomal@collin.edu.

Visit us at www.texmatyc.org



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