

Spring 2023



MMATYC NEWS

SPRING CONFERENCE—BACK IN PERSON!

It’s hard to believe, but it has been three years since we were able to meet in person. On May 26, we will have our conference at Carroll Community College, from 9am until 3pm.

The Call for Proposals is open until April 3rd, and registration is now open. For more information, or to submit a proposal, please go to our website: <http://www.mmatyc.org/conferences/>

INTERESTED IN HELPING MMATYC?

MMATYC is still looking for volunteers for the following positions:

- Liaison to NOSS
- Montgomery College Campus Representative
- Newsletter Editor

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Lisa Feinman, Past President, at LFeinman@ccbcmd.edu



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MARYLAND REPORT CARDS

The Maryland State Department of Education issued their annual report cards for every K-12 school in the state. These report cards were the first issued in three years.

The report cards include data on both mathematic and English language academic achievement, academic growth, on-time graduation, demonstration of being on-track for post-secondary preparedness, and measures of school quality and overall institution success.

Across the state, 16% of schools scored 5 stars, which translated to earning a 75% or higher on the metrics listed. Only 25% of schools scored 1 or 2 stars. Sixty-two percent of the school had scores that remained unchanged from the last issuance of the report cards; however, more than 25% of the schools lowered their score by at least one star.

Montgomery County had the highest number of schools earning five stars (53), with Howard and Anne Arundel County each having 28. Prince George's, Baltimore City, and Baltimore County had the highest numbers of schools earning one or two stars.

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Documents/2023/0228/MarylandSchoolReportCardUpdate.pdf>

“We want to ensure that each student feels supported and feels they have the tools to be successful in the classroom and beyond.” Clarence C. Crawford, Maryland State Board of Education President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear MMATYC Members,

Happy Spring!

Exciting news: Our 2023 Annual MMATYC Spring Conference will be held in person this year for the first time since 2019! Our theme this year is It's a Prime Time for Math! Our keynote speaker this year is Dr. Elizabeth “Zibi” Turtle, a planetary scientist who is the principal investigator for the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab's Dragonfly project.

We're starting a new tradition this year: the Annual MMATYC Faculty Math Contest. Not only will there be bragging rights, but there will be prizes and a trophy, too! How can you participate in this inaugural event? Join us at our spring conference at Carroll Community College on May 26th and enter the contest. Remember, you must play to win!

MMATYC is your organization – its members are the heart and soul of mathematics in Maryland's community colleges. We cannot be effective unless you, the MMATYC members, participate. There are many ways for you to get involved including (but not limited to) contributing to our newsletter, attending/presenting at our annual spring conference, holding a webinar, and/or representing MMATYC in some other capacity (see page 1 of this newsletter for current vacancies).

Getting involved in national and international organizations is a great way to grow professionally, too. The American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (AMATYC), for example, provides its members with plenty of ways to be involved in various aspects of mathematics in the first two years of college. For more details see page 3 of this newsletter or talk with any of your community college mathematics colleagues who are members of AMATYC.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at Carroll Community College for our 2023 MMATYC Spring Conference on May 26th!

MMATYC

The Maryland Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges is an organization of mathematics instructors from across the state of Maryland.

Our purpose is to:

- Encourage an active interest in mathematics and its teaching and to work towards the improvement of mathematics education.
- Provide a medium of exchange of views and information about mathematics and the teaching of mathematics on the two-year college level.
- Provide a voice and means of influencing the mathematics curriculum in the two-year college.
- Enhance the prestige of the profession of mathematics teaching.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Each month, we will feature a different MMATYC member. This month, we are focusing on Josiah Hartley, an Associate Professor at Frederick Community College—and also our Webmaster!

How long have you been at FCC?

I started at FCC in the fall of 2013, so I'm just about to hit my 10-year anniversary here.

What courses do you primarily teach?

I like to switch things up frequently, so that my classes don't get stale. I often teach precalculus and calculus courses, as well as our liberal-arts math class, and every so often I'll mix in a statistics or discrete math course.

Did you teach anywhere (K-12, grad school, anything) before starting at FCC?

No, I was hired at FCC right out of grad school.

What is your favorite course to teach (and why)?

I love teaching differential equations, because one of my undergraduate degrees is in mechanical engineering, and I really enjoy working with the next generation of engineers and showing them the beauty and utility of differential equations. It's also great to have students that really want to know the why of things.



Do you have advice for newer teachers?

Be yourself – play to your strengths. I have a very low-key personality, and I used to wish that I could be that peppy, high-energy teacher that has students standing on their desks. That changed when I had a student with a lot of math anxiety tell me that they loved coming into my classroom because it was so calm and relaxing, and they didn't feel the pressure that they'd had in other math classes. So don't try to be somebody else – just be the best version of yourself, and students will respond to that genuineness.

MMATYC

<http://www.mmatyc.org/>

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