

Ohio Mathematics Initiative - Summary

Background and Ohio Mathematics Summit

Discussions early in 2013 about postsecondary mathematics education in Ohio culminated in the Ohio Mathematics Summit, a statewide meeting of University System of Ohio (USO) mathematics faculty. The purpose of the summit was to discuss and learn about the dynamics of policies that were impacting mathematics education in Ohio, student retention issues faced by institutions of higher education in Ohio, topics related to Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) Mathematics, Statistics, and Logic guidelines, and effective quantitative pathways for STEM and non-STEM majors. With the release of the [Uniform Statewide Standards for Remediation-Free Status](#) and [Ohio College Readiness Expectations](#) in mathematics, many institutions are now exploring new options for credit-bearing college-level courses. All of the aforementioned led to a recommendation that a statewide discussion occur.

On May 8, 2013, about 150 mathematics faculty from all 36 University System of Ohio (USO) institutions gathered for a discussion of the issues facing mathematics education at both state and national levels. Dr. Uri Treisman, Professor of Mathematics and of Public Affairs and the founder and Executive Director of the [Charles A. Dana Center](#) at The University of Texas at Austin, presented as the keynote speaker. During the summit, small group discussions engaged summit participants in sharing thoughts and ideas on how to move the state forward. The summit was facilitated by Dr. W. Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs at The Ohio State University and Ms. Cathy Chudzinski, Professor of Biology at Terra State Community College, who are the Co-Chairs of the OTM Faculty Sub-Committee; and Dr. Treisman.

As a result of the summit, it was proposed that a steering committee of mathematics experts be formed to study national trends, current initiatives and available statewide and national data and subsequently to make recommendations for future mathematics curricula in Ohio. In addition, the purpose of the committee includes developing expectations and processes that result in each campus offering pathways in mathematics that yield (a) increased success for students in the study of mathematics, (b) a higher percentage of students completing degree programs, and (c) effective transferability of credits for students moving from one institution to another.

Ohio Higher Education Mathematics Steering Committee

The Ohio Higher Education Mathematics Steering Committee is comprised of 12 mathematics faculty from Ohio public institutions of higher education, 5 Ex-Officio members, and Ohio Board of Regents staff. The committee is chaired by Dr. Joan Leitzel, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at The Ohio State University and former President of the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Leitzel has led a distinguished career in education that includes serving on the board of directors of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (now APLU) and chairing the board of the American Association for Higher Education. She also chaired the Mathematical Sciences Education Board at the National Research Council from 2000-2004 and is immediate-past-chair of the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences. At the inaugural meeting of the Ohio Higher Education Mathematics Steering Committee in July 2013, the members agreed that the Ohio Board of Regents should enter a contract with Dr. Uri Treisman and the Charles A. Dana Center to provide their expertise and assist the steering committee with meeting requirements of the drafted charge. The Ohio Higher Education Mathematics Steering Committee will begin monthly meetings in October 2013. The work of the steering committee will culminate in a two-day retreat early in 2014.

For additional information or event sponsorship opportunities, contact Dr. Paula Compton, Associate Vice Chancellor of Articulation and Transfer, at pcompton@regents.state.oh.us or 614.466.3334.