THE READY TO TEACH PROGRAM

The Concord Consortium's Seeing Math Telecommunications Project and the PBS (the Public Broadcasting Service) Teacherline Project have joined to create a program called "Ready to Teach" that addresses the problem of under-qualified secondary mathematics teachers.

The goal of Ready to Teach is to develop, implement, evaluate, and disseminate an affordable, scalable teacher professional development program for uncertified secondary math teachers. The program is also being used for teacher professional development and is being tested as part of a preservice methods program.

CLOSE SUPPORT™

The core innovation of the Ready to Teach program is online "Close Support" courses for algebra teachers that address both content and pedagogy needs of participating teachers. These courses provide content-specific assistance to teachers of algebra I and II. Each participating teacher will, at the same time, be teaching the same topic to students. Close Support comprises five components – timing, content, parallel teacher and student activities, insights into student thinking, discussions with peers.

Background

The Concord Consortium's Seeing Math Telecommunications Project and the PBS (the Public Broadcasting Service) Teacherline Project have both, over the past 3 years, been developing online teacher professional development focused on elementary math teachers. These two projects could be characterized as in competition with each other. They have similar goals, but have taken different approaches to meet those goals. The Ready to Teach program has seen these two projects come together to create a new approach, to online education that makes greater use of a variety of technologies.

The Panel

The panelists represent both Concord Consortium's Seeing Math project and the PBS Teacherline project. Raymond Rose is Vice President of The Concord Consortium and Project Director; Rob Ramsdell is Project Director for Teacherline; Joanna Lu is Project Manager for Seeing Math; and Beryl Jackson is Ready to Teach Coordinator for Teacherline. The two organizations will present an overview of their initial approach, and then in joint presentation will describe how the Ready to Teach effort came to be. By the time SITE takes place the Pilot Test phase of the Ready to Teach program will be well underway and we'll be able to demonstrate the materials and describe the progress of the Pilot Test.

The panel will be highly interactive. It will engage the audience through the demonstration of project interactives, and by raising questions that the project has had to cope with, as well as addressing issues raised by the audience. Presentation time will not exceed one-third of the panel time.