

Bits of information gleaned from campus reports:

ASU: is focusing a lot of effort on the math for elementary and math for secondary teachers sequences. There is a concern about the need to improve algebra skills in order for teachers to be able to pass math competency exams. ASU may add at least two more lower division courses next year.

Arizona Western: Has a new building which is completely solar. There are six companies solar arrays on campus and the whole campus is now solar powered. Eventually the college will sell electricity to electric utilities. AWC is looking at their developmental math sequence and may implement a reading requirement for math classes.

Central Arizona: Has been adding campuses, with another expected for next year. The new academic Vice President is also working as a math adjunct. Over the past three years enrollment in math is up 95%.

Chandler-Gilbert: Growth has been increasing 11-15% yearly and has resulted in the creation of two new math faculty positions. CGCC is now using Math in Action in the lab.

Cochise: The college is undergoing reorganization and downsizing. They do have two new buildings but one of them cannot be occupied because the carpet appears to be emitting some kind of chemical and will need to be replaced. The Gates foundation awarded a grant to try a program which was developed at Jackson State in which math classes contain 40 students but in addition to the instructor there is a designated tutor who attends the class regularly and works with the students. A new room with forty computers has been set aside just for math. Two faculty members are leaving.

Coconino: Have one new temp and one new full time faculty. The math department has received two new classrooms but are giving up two old classrooms to be converted into a lab. The college is sponsoring a Festival of Science and is preparing for a visit from the Higher Learning Commission. They also have received a grant to build a telescope on campus.

Dine: After a secretary was put in charge of the math department there was a concern that the pass rate was too low. The Vice President who made that decision has since been fired.

Estrella Mountain: Have 2 new faculty positions. Math enrollment is getting a boost from a National Science Foundation-sponsored program called the Emerging Scholars Program that helps pay tuition for students in math, science and engineering.

Glendale: Hired one new faculty member this fall. Is also receiving a similar type of support from the National Science Foundation, through a program which includes extra courses for students majoring in math, science or engineering. Glendale also has worked to beef up a Math Discovery Center that offers drop-in tutoring and is staffed with math tutors and sometimes by faculty members.

Mesa: Enrollment is up but recently the growth has been slowing down. Mesa has started a Math Foundation Center to help students get help. They are in their second year of using ALECS as a placement tool. They are implementing a policy that if placement into a transfer class gets too old there is a need to retest.

Mohave: Is now a learning center-centered college. Developmental math, after having been broken off earlier is now back in the math department. They are working on placement and trying to fix problems that have developed in the past (they are using COMPASS.) There is now a faculty Senate, and departments have been renamed 'curriculum clusters.'

NAU: The math department is getting money from the university to reconfigure its online delivery in order to help people who don't finish on time. NAU is now using the 'Pathways' software that was developed at ASU. Growth is way up and most classes are twice as large as a result. There is a new Calculus textbook. NAU will be hiring a Ph.D. statistician and four lecturers.

Phoenix College: Planning to try and accommodate an expected 3000-4000 students with 16-20 full time faculty. The college will attempt to resume its engineering program. Right now the college has about 6 part time faculty ready to move to full time.

Pima: Will be posting for eight new positions to start in fall 2011. Completed a self-study last year is looking to see an improvement in online classes. The college is also looking at changing placement programs because while there is a federal requirement to provide placement the present program has not been effective.

Scottsdale: Is experimenting with scheduling, using an eight week/eight week semester schedule to enable people to get through more quickly. SCC now has six video classrooms.

South Mountain: Is collaborating with ASU. Math enrollment has increased from 30 sections of basic algebra a year ago to 58 sections. There is some thought of breaking basic algebra into two courses, beginning and intermediate.

U of A: is piloting a new course titled, "preparation for college mathematics." The university is also looking at a change in how it will accept algebra transfer credit. May teach more 200 level math courses.

Yavapai: has one new hire (actually an old hire who had left to teach at the university level but has returned to YCC.) Is using MyMathLab software. YCC is developing online courses and will have full time faculty pioneer them and then allow adjuncts to teach them later on.