Math Boost: A Workshop Designed to Improve Student Success on the Math Placement Exam

***Abstract***

Preliminary data from small samples has shown that as little as 20 hours of focused mathematics drills, using the **MyMathTest** computer program, can result in students increasing their math placement scores by one or more levels (courses). Offering this workshop to additional students will:

1. Confirm that math drills can improve student placement scores
2. Allow an investigation to determine if these more advanced placements are a more accurate indicator of student placement, as reflected by student success

**Executive Summary**

During Summer 2009 and Summer 2010, the mathematics and athletic faculty worked in collaboration to offer two groups of students the opportunity to improve their math placement scores. This was accomplished by providing computer lab space, faculty instructional support, student peer tutors, and access to the **MyMathTest** computer program that facilitates review in developmental mathematics thru college algebra, including trigonometry. Students worked problems at various levels, with the goal of refreshing their skill set in math so that they could improve their individual placement scores. Combined, the number of students participating was only 23. However, the results are striking. 67% of the students, who completed the workshop, improved their placement by one or more levels (courses) and 48% improved their placement by two or more levels. An increase of one placement level can shorten the student’s path to AA completion by one to two semesters. Student feedback indicated the workshop effectiveness and students said they would recommend it to their peers. The student success task force is recommending funding for two years with and assessment to be conducted on the workshops at the end of each year.

There are two drawbacks:

* The majority of students did not continue in math, and there is insufficient data to determine if the advanced placement was appropriate as determined by student success in math. ***The proposal can ameliorate this by counseling and registration intervention to facilitate student enrolment in the new level math***
* Lack of funding. Instructional faculty, peer tutors, counselors, computer access require funding. ***The College needs to determine if the attached proposal, requesting funding for a minimum of two years, makes the case for efficacy of the Math Boost Workshops***