

## Message from the Chancellor

This special edition newsletter is focused on mathematics pathways redesign in the Florida College System (FCS) as it relates to recent outcomes from the 2018 Math Pathways Convening, as well as the role that our Student Success Center will have in assisting our 28 institutions in their efforts to improve student success rates through effective math pathways.

The 2018 Math Pathways Convening gathered more than 150 math faculty, department chairs and key stakeholders from each of Florida's 28 colleges to identify challenges and solutions to implementing mathematics pathways from a developmental education framework to required gateway courses. As you will read in this edition, Dr. Uri Treisman of the Charles A. Dana Center prepared the day's discussion by providing a national perspective on the need for clearer math pathways, along with state and university researchers who discussed current data in our system focused on equity outcomes.

Without question, mathematics is an important and foundational subject. Through problem-solving and statistical analysis, the human mind is encouraged to think creatively and utilize innovative thought. Yet, we are finding increasingly that mathematics has become a barrier to many students, especially those seeking a postsecondary education. The need for developmental math education presents a major obstacle to completion for many incoming students at both the two- and four-year levels. The pathway for students placing into credit-bearing math courses is also problematic for many, leading to fewer completing STEM majors than needed.

Recently, innovative approaches to redesigning developmental and entry-level math courses have been developed, incorporating elements that include disaggregated pathways with targeted curricula for specific audiences; co-remediation rather than pre-remediation; focus on problem-solving rather than skill building; and new teaching methodologies.

As Chancellor, I am proud of the great work taking place in the FCS. Many of our colleges are known for their outstanding programs in mathematics preparation, whether gateway coursework or advanced statistical analysis. Even so, there are still many barriers preventing students from becoming successful in math. For example, test rates have gone up as a whole within our state, but with regard to students taking MAT1033 only 57 percent pass, leaving nearly half behind in their academic progress. Knowing these statistics, it is clear that there is still more work to do.

As we build upon the best practice work in the mathematics field, as well as each of our student's success, our colleges will continue to be the pathway to the American dream. Whether at the computer screen, in a classroom, in a tutoring lab, or walking to and from class, our faculty and colleges will continue to change lives, making all of us a strong system and the benchmark for the entire nation.

With appreciation,

Madeline Pumariega, Chancellor, The Florida College System

