Math education switches colleges

By Natasha Bhuyan
Arizona Daily Wildcat

In an effort to increase the number of math teachers, the UA math education program is transitioning from the College of Education to the College of Science.

Sandy Garber, director of admissions for the College of Education, said the move began in the fall when the math department accumulated enough resources to offer a math education degree through the College of Science.

"The math education faculty are better able to recruit math majors to teaching and integrate mathematics into the professional education courses offered in the College of Science," Garber said.

The switch was made in response to a "nationwide push" to increase subject matter backgrounds for math and science teachers, said Debra Tomank, director of the College of Science Teacher Preparation Program. Math education majors will now graduate from the College of Science with a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts, said Chris Mikhail, a math adviser.

Virginia Horak, an associate math professor who helped with the relocation, said she believes a long-term effect of the change will be a higher number of math education graduates.

"Some students like to have a degree in mathematics," she said. "It gives them flexibility in getting a job."

There are about 40 to 50 math education majors at the UA, Mikhail said.

Science education majors experienced a similar transition in 2000, when they were moved from the College of Education to the College of Science.

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Diversity initiative leader selected

Humanities dean to head Hispanic recruiting team

By Mitra Taj
Arizona Daily Wildcat

As part of the UA’s broader goal of increasing diversity on campus, the dean of the College of Humanities has been put in charge of spearheading a new initiative aimed at recruiting and retaining more Hispanic students.

President Peter Likins said he asked Dean Charles Tatum to take on the task of reaching out to Hispanic communities to close the gap between Hispanic representation in the student body and the surrounding populace.

"He’s always been an active participant in outreach activities," Likins said. "I just asked him to officially take responsibility. He’s willing to take on more."

Tatum said he will be able to recommend practices to the president and vice president that he believes will promote recruitment and retention of Hispanic students.

He said he will not implement policies or manage budgets, and that implementation of his recommendations will depend on cooperation among student leadership, faculty, the president and college deans.

"I’m going to develop an overall plan or strategy to substantially increase the number and quality of Latino and Latina students, faculty and personnel," Tatum said.

Because the initiative is so new, the means by which more diversity will be created is still "vague," he said.

City officials to consider killing Grant ‘suicide lane’

By Zach Colick
Arizona Daily Wildcat

Students who live near East Grant Road may be able to breathe a sigh of relief if a proposal to end the road’s “suicide lane” is passed.

Monday, the Tucson Department of Transportation will consider whether to eliminate the reversible lane, which carries traffic westbound from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and eastbound from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and inhibits drivers from making left turns during those times.

The department will look at the pros and cons of removing because it’s dangerous. People could die," she said. "It’s tough for people from out of town who aren’t used to it."

Other students said they find the suicide lane a nuisance and wish it would be phased out.

"It’s very irritating because you can’t turn left during rush hour," said Adam Carroll, a mechanical engineering sophomore. "It just inconveniences me, and I think it needs to go."

Graham warned that if the suicide lane is removed, there could be more traffic during rush hour because there will be one less lane.

Add 600-700 vehicles competing for space on the road, and suddenly there’s more congestion. "There are about 40 to 50 math education majors at the UA, Mikhail said.

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