

THE GREAT 58 CONNECTION

NORTH CAROLINA MATHEMATICS
ASSOCIATION OF TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

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Fall 2026 Newsletter

This issue of the Great 58 Connection includes a call for Conference Presenters for our 2027 Conference, nominations for our Mathematics Leadership Excellence award, Travel grant applications, NCMATYC Math Competition, a few committee reports, and professional development webinars registration to teach with industry applications.

NCMATYC Conference 2027 - hosted by Wilkes Community College

Submitted by Natasha Harris, Wilkes Community College

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Calling all math instructors! We're excited to announce the **NCMATYC 2027 Conference at Wilkes Community College** on **March 11–12, 2027**, hosted on the Wilkes Campus. This annual gathering brings educators from across North Carolina together to exchange ideas, explore innovative teaching practices and connect with peers who share a passion for mathematics to **Reach New Heights!**

The call for presenters is now open! Consider sharing your teaching expertise with your NC colleagues. If you have never presented, consider a 25-minute presentation! Submit your presentation at the link: [CALL FOR PRESENTERS FORM](#)

While you're here for the conference, take some time to explore Wilkesboro to enjoy scenic views and outdoor recreation at **W. Kerr Scott Reservoir**, stroll



through **downtown shops and local dining**, or dive into regional history at the **Wilkes Heritage Museum**. This is a great opportunity to experience the unique charm and small-town hospitality of Wilkes County.

The conference hotel is the **Hampton Inn** Wilkesboro, 1300 Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro, NC. It is less than a half mile from Wilkes CC. Make your reservation by calling 336-838-5000 prior to February 10th, 2027. You **MUST** reference NCMATYC Conference to receive the discounted rate.

We look forward to welcoming you to **Wilkes Community College** soon.



15th Annual NCMATYC Mathematics Competition

Submitted by Michael Boone, Gaston College

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On **Saturday, November 7, 2026**, NCMATYC will host its **15th Annual NCMATYC Mathematics Competition** at **Gaston College in Dallas, NC**, from approximately **10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Bring your degree-seeking mathematics students for a day of competition, collaboration, and fun! Students will have the opportunity to compete in an **individual Calculus competition** as well as a **team event** designed to challenge their mathematical problem-solving skills.

Early registration is open now through October 23, 2026, for only **\$25 per student**. After October 23, the registration fee will increase to **\$35 per student**, so be sure to register early! [NCMATYC MATH COMPETITION REGISTRATION FORM](#)



More Opportunities for Students to Compete

The NCMATYC Mathematics Competition is not the only opportunity for community college students to put their mathematical skills to the test. Consider encouraging your students to participate in these additional competitions:

- **AMATYC Student Mathematics League (SML)** – Fall 2026 & Spring 2027
Students can participate in the AMATYC Student Mathematics League throughout the academic year. **Total cost: \$35 per student.** More detail in a later article.

[Learn more about the AMATYC SML](#)

- **University of North Georgia Math Competition** – Gainesville, GA, approximately April 2027
This competition provides another opportunity for students to challenge themselves and connect with other mathematics students. **Cost: \$35 per student.**

[Learn more about the UNG Math Competition](#)

Encourage your students to **challenge themselves, work collaboratively, and show off their mathematical problem-solving skills!**

AMATYC Conference 2026 in Philadelphia – Travel Grant Application

Submitted by Nolan Outlaw, Wake Technical Community College

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Will you be at the upcoming AMATYC Conference in Philadelphia? It runs from 11/19 -11/22 and will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. This is in a great location with many fun opportunities outside of conference activities. The Franklin Institute, National Constitution Center, Liberty Bell, and Independence Hall are a short walk from the hotel as are many restaurants!

The annual conference is always packed with valuable sessions, inspiring keynote speakers, and many networking opportunities. This year's keynote speakers are Ken Ono (session is on the emerging role of AI) and Edray Goins (session is on mentoring and growth mindset).

Whether you are still on the fence or are already planning to attend, you may find the links below helpful. I want to specifically point out that **NCMATYC has a travel grant** that can help cover some of your costs for attending the conference!

- Do you need funding support? Consider applying for NCMATYC's [AMATYC Travel Grant](#). Applications are due by 10/1/2026.
 - URL: <https://forms.gle/QwCtdHptyJvsjxkW6>
- Already planning to attend but haven't registered? Discount registration ends on 10/7. [Register for the conference](#) today!
 - URL: <https://www.amatyc.org/events/b7149439-97d4-4816-a713-79bc52ad9797>



- Would you like a roommate at the conference to help offset lodging costs? You can complete [AMATYC's Conference Roommate Request form](https://www.amatyc.org/conference/2026-conference/).
 - URL: <https://www.amatyc.org/conference/2026-conference/>
- If you are seeking funding from your college, you may find the justification toolkit useful. This is located on [AMATYC's 2026 conference webpage](https://www.amatyc.org/conference/2026-conference/).
 - URL: <https://www.amatyc.org/conference/2026-conference/>

I hope you will consider attending. What better place to host a conference on America's 250th anniversary than the city where the nation was born!



AMATYC Student Mathematics League – Registration Information

Submitted by Sue Sheets, Sandhills Community College

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Are your students looking for a way to challenge themselves, strengthen their problem-solving skills, and represent their college in a national mathematics competition?

The **Student Mathematics League (SML)**, sponsored by **AMATYC**, is a national mathematics competition designed specifically for students attending two-year colleges. Students compete **individually and as members of a team representing their college**.

And getting your college involved is easier than you might think!

How Does the Competition Work?

The SML consists of **two rounds each academic year**—one during the fall semester and one during the spring semester. Each round features a **one-hour, 20-question multiple-choice examination** containing challenging and sometimes nonstandard mathematics problems.



For the **2026–2027 academic year**, the competition dates are:

Round Competition Window

Round 1 October 30–November 13, 2026

Round 2 February 26–March 12, 2027

One of the great features of the SML is that participation **does not need to be limited to students whose faculty expect to score highly**. Colleges may allow any number of eligible students to participate. An experience like SML can help students discover mathematical abilities and confidence they may not have realized they possessed.

Who Is Eligible?

To participate, a student must:

- Be enrolled in at least one class at the participating college.
- Not be enrolled in, or already have credit for, mathematics beyond traditional sophomore-level courses such as **Calculus III, Differential Equations, Linear Algebra, or Discrete Mathematics**.

After each examination, the **five highest-scoring students** from a college become that college's official team for that round.

Recognition and Scholarships

The SML provides students with opportunities to earn **regional and national recognition**. AMATYC recognizes outstanding individual and team performances throughout the competition.

In addition, the qualified individual with the highest combined score on both examinations receives the **\$3,000 Charles Miller Memorial Scholarship**, which can be used toward continued education at an accredited four-year institution.

Interested in Participating?

Registration for the 2026–2027 Student Mathematics League is currently open!

Colleges that register by **September 30, 2026**, will avoid the **\$15 late fee**. The final registration deadline is **October 31, 2026**.

Even better, the **registration fee is waived for AMATYC Institutional Member colleges** that register by September 30.

For official rules, registration information, additional details, and previous competition questions, visit the [AMATYC Student Mathematics League website](#).

Give Your Students the Challenge!

Consider giving your students an opportunity to **challenge themselves, discover their mathematical talents, and represent your college** in this national competition.

Questions? Contact sml@amatyc.org.

Grant Materials Dissemination – CORD and NCMATYC Collaboration

Submitted by Jay Martin, Wake Tech Community College (retired)

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For the past 10 years, I have been involved in grant-funded projects focused on helping educators create and integrate authentic, industry-contextualized lessons into mathematics courses at both the community college and high school levels. These experiences have opened my eyes to the mathematical skills and problem-solving abilities that are truly needed in today's workplace.

More importantly, I have had the opportunity to hear directly from students who have persisted through challenging industry-based assignments and discovered that mathematics has a meaningful purpose beyond the classroom. I have also heard from faculty who have developed a renewed enthusiasm for teaching after collaborating with local industry partners to create authentic mathematical tasks. These experiences have reinforced my belief that connecting mathematics to careers can help students better understand why they are learning mathematics and how they will use it in their future careers.



As President of NCMATYC and Chair of the **Math and Its Application to Careers AMATYC Committee**, I look forward to sharing with educators what I have learned from industry partners, instructors, and students, as well as the teaching resources developed through three grant projects.

From 2020–2023, **Wake Tech** Community College administered the NSF ATE project **Connecting Industry to Mathematics Instruction (CIMI)**. Through this project, high school and community college mathematics faculty worked with local industry partners to identify authentic workplace applications of mathematics and develop industry-based tasks for senior-level high school and entry-level community college mathematics courses. Although the COVID-19 pandemic required many of the industry interactions to take place virtually, the project ultimately produced a collection of engaging lessons and resources that connect mathematics to real workplace situations.

From 2019–2024, **Hofstra University** administered the NSF ATE project **Needed Math**, which focused on identifying the mathematics skills most needed in manufacturing industries. The project combined a large-scale industry survey with site visits to better understand workplace expectations. It also used AI to develop industry-based scenarios that highlight the skills identified through the survey and demonstrate how mathematics is applied in authentic manufacturing contexts.

More recently, during 2025–2026, the **Center for Occupational Research and Development (CORD)** administered an NCCCS Perkins-funded project focused on **CTE in Mathematics Instruction**. Six North Carolina community colleges partnered with local industries to better understand the mathematical

skills needed in the workplace and to develop contextualized instructional materials for entry-level college mathematics courses.

The exciting news is that these resources are now being shared with educators beyond the original project participants. CORD is hosting **monthly webinars at no cost to attendees** featuring materials developed through these three projects. Each webinar focuses on a specific entry-level community college mathematics course and highlights an industry-based lesson, provides links to additional lessons that can be used in that course, and explores current mathematical needs and expectations identified by industry partners.

You can register to receive the Zoom webinar links at: <https://tinyurl.com/CIMI-RegistrationForm>

A QR code for registration is also provided below.

I hope you will join us for one or more of these sessions and discover practical ways to bring authentic workplace mathematics into your classroom. Together, we can help our students see that mathematics is more than a collection of procedures and formulas—it is a powerful tool that people use every day to solve problems, make decisions, and succeed in today’s workforce. Webinars started in September and the second webinar is scheduled for October 20th at 3:30 pm and will highlight industry tasks that can integrate into MAT 152, Intro Statistics.

Let’s get on the bus and take our students where mathematics is really being used!



NCMATYC–NCCCS Advisory Committee Update

Submitted by Caroline J. Cook, Committee Chair, Rowan Cabarrus Community College

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I am the chair of the NCMATYC-NCCCS Advocacy Committee. I teach mathematics at Rowan Cabarrus community college. Currently, I am teaching Calculus 3, Calculus 1, Precalculus, and Statistics. The role of this committee is to write requests from faculty to the NC Community College System. We welcome anyone with interest in helping us advocate for faculty! If you would like to join our committee, please email me.



Currently our committee is drafting a letter for the NCMATYC board regarding proctoring (or lack thereof) in online classes throughout the 58. We want to address the following:

1. **Academic Integrity**
2. **Credibility and/or Trust of the Credential**
3. **Student Equity**
4. **Flexibility**

If anyone wishes to collaborate on this effort, please contact me! We will be meeting again before the end of September. We hope to have a finalized letter for the NCMATYC board by October.

NCMATYC - State Legislative Advocacy Committee

Submitted by Joseph D. Lloyd, Committee Chair, Wake Technical Community College

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Thank you to everyone who participated in our NCMATYC conference session in the spring earlier this year and provided feedback on our open letter to the North Carolina House and Senate education committees and leaders.

State Budget Update

Since our spring newsletter, the General Assembly has enacted the FY 2026–27 state budget. You may have already received communication from your institutional leadership, but we would like to highlight the following:

- A 3% salary increase for community college employees.
- One-time bonuses of \$1,750 for employees earning \$65,000 or less and \$1,000 for employees earning more than \$65,000, scheduled for October.
- Additional recurring funding for the Community College System, including funding through the Propel NC formula.

Committee Update

While our letter did not receive a response from members of the General Assembly, the issues raised in the letter remain relevant and worth pursuing. We hope to strengthen our advocacy efforts in the future and build meaningful relationships with policymakers where possible.

Our committee will continue to advocate for:

- Competitive and sustainable faculty compensation
- Adequate funding for mathematics programs and assessment
- Affordable health insurance



Get Involved

We welcome faculty interested in legislative advocacy, whether you would like to help with future initiatives, share policy updates, or simply stay informed.

Fall Meeting: December 1st 2026.

Location: Via MS Teams:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/297303822755271?p=TOxQyoIKTGRRbsgB2H>

To be added to the committee contact list, please email me.

Mathematics Leadership Excellence Award Nominations - Now Accepting

The Mathematics Leadership Excellence Award (MLE Award), formerly known as the Mathematics Excellence Award (ME Award) prior to 2024, is intended for educators who have made outstanding contributions through leadership in mathematics or mathematics education in the first two years of college. **To nominate a colleague, complete the form [MLE Award Nomination Form](#) .**

The NCMATYC Website can be found at <http://ncmatyc.matyc.org/> . It now contains all conference forms, travel award forms, math excellence nomination form, NCMATYC Math Competition Registration form, and other information. Please check it out!

Winter Issue Request for Articles

To submit articles for the Winter Issue of The Great 58 Connection Newsletter, please send your article to Jay Martin at jamesemartin59@gmail.com no later than November 30, 2026.