AVATAR Math Lesson Study Proposal Spring 2014

What is Lesson Study?

Lesson study is a structured process in which instructors with a common curriculum need collaborate to research, design, teach and revise a lesson over a topic of common interest. The desired outcome is a strong lesson that everyone in the group can then add to their curriculum in future courses. The main steps of the process are briefly described below.

* Identify an area of common weakness in curriculum.
* Research content and teaching strategies related to the identified area.
* Collaboratively design a lesson.
* Teach the lesson to a group of students. The other members of the group act as observers and identify flaws in the lesson. (This is not a critique of the presenting teacher, but rather is a preliminary step to refining the lesson.)
* Refine the lesson together to repair flaws.
* Reteach. Ideally, the group has an opportunity to try the revised lesson on a second group of students to see if the revisions are successful and to identify any further necessary changes.

Our proposal for spring is to form small, geographically convenient groups to implement this process and improve instruction. College Algebra courses share topics with high school Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus courses. College Contemporary Mathematics shares topics with AQR and Statistics courses offered in high schools. We propose including high school teachers and college faculty in mutually beneficial cooperation to improve instruction for both.

Kathy Harvey has ordered resource materials to guide the process. We propose asking area principals to identify and recruit teachers who would benefit and like to participate in the process.