

**Title of Grant:** Alternative Assessment in Developmental Mathematics

**SP2008 – 129P – FF**

**Date of Funding:** Spring 2008

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**Abstract:**

This project aims at implementing the AMATYC curriculum and assessment standards, evaluating current practices of assessment, and field testing alternative methods of assessment with the primary purposes of increasing students' abilities to apply mathematics, think critically and retain mathematics for future application in course work and job related activities. Note: AMATYC = American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges.

**Actual Outcomes:**

The students in the pilot program benefitted greatly. They experienced increased critical thinking skills, level of comfort with technology, increased confidence, and improved content retention. For dissemination information, see below.

**Other Colleges:**

New Horizons presentation - approximately 25 people from all other VCCS colleges.  
Danville Workshop - approximately 20 people, math and English instructors.

**Discussion and Critique:**

Student understanding depends directly on level of involvement in the learning process. The integration of technology and hands-on activities create that atmosphere of positive learning. The key for the future is to adapt to each class of students and pull the components from the pilot that work for the dynamics of that group.

**Evaluation:**

Informal assessment included student presentations and results from personal response systems. Many students completing the course showed pre/post test improvement.

Improved exit exam scores: 79% avg. exam grade- Fall 2007, 83% avg. exam grade - Spring 2008  
Stable pass rate: 73% pass rate - Fall 2007, 73% pass rate - Spring 2008, RCC 61% pass rate

**Dissemination:**

New Horizons Presentation - Spring 2008  
Danville CC Workshop - May 2008  
Continued availability for workshops and discussions at Peer Group meetings.