



# EXPONENT

Newsletter of the Greater San Diego Mathematics Council  
An Affiliate of the California Mathematics Council  
and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

## Come to the GSDMC Annual Mathematics Conference February 3–4, 2012

The GSDMC annual conference, “Put Students at the Helm: Standards for Mathematical Practice,” will be held on February 3–4, 2012. Sessions will focus on the Mathematical Practices from the Common Core State Standards:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

There will also be dynamic keynote speakers during the conference on current topics in mathematics education. Dr. Robert Sawyer and Dan Meyer will be the keynote speakers on Friday afternoon. On Saturday participants will hear from Dr. Rochelle Gutiérrez, whose research focuses on equity in mathematics education.

### Extended Focus on Professional Development Workshops

On Saturday participants will be able to attend Extended Professional Development Workshops. The three specific areas of focus will be:

- ✓ Strategies to meet the needs of English language learners;
- ✓ STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics); and

- ✓ The Four Areas of Challenge from the Common Core Standards: Fractions; Number Sense and Place Value; Transformational Geometry; and Model with Mathematics.

### Registration

Get your registration in and join us at the Marina Village on Mission Bay. Pre-register by January 20 to receive the early registration discount. Registrations received after January 20 but by January 27 will pay the regular registration fee. There will also be onsite registration during the conference at Marina Village for those who don't pre-register. Those attending on Friday will again receive a box lunch as part of their registration. GSDMC members and schools in San Diego County received conference programs in November. More information and the registration form can be found on the GSDMC website at [www.gsdmc.org](http://www.gsdmc.org). □

### *In This Issue. . .*

- GSDMC Annual Conference..... Page 1
- President's Column ..... Page 2
- Teacher of the Year Awards..... Page 2
- GSDMC Banquet Reservation..... Page 3
- SDCOE Mathematics Update..... Page 4
- Student Events for 2012 ..... Page 6
- Calendar of Events ..... Page 7
- For Your Information ..... Page 8
- Membership Information..... Page 9

## GSDMC President's Column

by Cathy Williams, GSDMC President, [catherinewilliams@vusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:catherinewilliams@vusd.k12.ca.us)

**G**SDMC is planning many activities this spring to promote mathematics education in San Diego County. I hope you will have time to support some of these events. Our Annual Conference will focus on implementation of the California Common Core Standards through presentations designed to address STEM, teacher professional development, and strategies to support our English Learners. We will also be honoring outstanding teachers at the Awards Banquet that will be held on Friday evening during the conference. February 4 and 5 at Marina Village promises to be a valuable experience for all those attending.

The spring is also a busy time for GSDMC with the many Field Days and contests that we sponsor. See the article on pages 6 and 7 for brief descriptions of these events.

As California draws closer to implementing

the new standards, I hope you will find a few minutes to review resources. The California Math Council has a wealth of current information located on their Web page at [cmc-math.org/resources/main.html](http://cmc-math.org/resources/main.html).

The future of mathematics education holds an abundance of promise for our youth. I encourage each of you to find time to promote our transition to new standards and assessments. There are countless reasons to move forward into the 21st Century with mathematics teaching and learning. It is imperative that each of us dedicate ourselves towards supporting this transition. My dream for the future is where every child speaks positively about mathematics and the experiences they had while in the classroom. When we achieve this goal we will be rewarded with an abundance of happy life long math learners and mathematicians. □

## Teacher of the Year and Karen Richey Awards to be Presented at Annual Recognition Banquet

**T**he GSDMC Annual Recognition Banquet will be held this year to coincide with the GSDMC Annual conference on Friday, February 3, 2012 at the Dana Inn on Mission Bay beginning at 6:00 P.M. The banquet is a highlight of the school year when GSDMC members come together to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year. Through the Outstanding Classroom Mathematics Teacher Awards, GSDMC members are able to recognize and honor teachers who have done a superior job of inspiring students of all backgrounds and abilities to higher achievement in mathematics. Outstanding Classroom Mathematics Teacher Awards will be given to selected teachers at the primary, upper elementary, junior high/middle school, senior high school, and post-secondary levels. GSDMC also recognizes the accomplishments of those schools doing outstanding work through the Family Math/Mathematica Para La Familia program by presenting the Karen Richey Family Math Award.

Outstanding Classroom Mathematics Teacher Award recipients will receive a plaque, \$200 to be used at their discretion for their school's mathematics program, and a one year membership in GSDMC. Schools receiving the Karen Richey Family Math Award will receive \$300 for the school's Family Math/Mathematica Para La Familia program.

Please register for the banquet by January 20, 2012, using the form that can be found on page 3, and honor these outstanding teachers! □

### THE E<sup>X</sup>PONENT

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Communications regarding the E<sup>X</sup>PONENT can be sent to:

Janet Trentacosta  
GSDMC E<sup>X</sup>PONENT Editor  
e-mail: [trentacosta@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trentacosta@sbcglobal.net)

GREATER SAN DIEGO MATHEMATICS COUNCIL  
ANNUAL RECOGNITION BANQUET

Friday, February 3, 2012

The Dana on Mission Bay (Mission Bay Ballroom)  
1710 West Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, CA 92109

6:00 P.M. – No host cocktails

6:30 P.M. – Dinner

Members: \$44 (includes tax and gratuity)

Non-Members: \$54 (includes tax and gratuity)

**Join us in honoring the dedicated teachers and educators who have inspired students of all backgrounds and abilities to higher achievement in mathematics. We will thank these exceptional individuals and honor “Outstanding Classroom Teachers of Mathematics” for 2011. We will also recognize those schools doing outstanding work through the Family Math/Mathematica Para La Familia program. Please join us for a memorable evening.**

Send check and tear-off portion below to: Greater San Diego Mathematics Council  
Attn: Bruce Arnold  
1026 Olive Crest Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024

*Make checks payable to: GSDMC*

*Questions: barnold@ucsd.edu*

GSDMC Annual Recognition Banquet  
Friday, February 3, 2012, The Dana on Mission Bay  
**Please respond by: January 20, 2012**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. in party** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

- Entree Choices:
1. Potato Crusted Salmon with Fresh Herb Butter Sauce
  2. Stuffed Chicken Florentine (spinach, basil, pine nuts, and feta cheese) with Roasted Red Pepper Butter Sauce
  3. Portobello Wellington with Roasted Red Peppers and Goat Cheese in Puff Pastry

NAME

ENTREE CHOICE

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## San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) Mathematics Update: Spring 2012

**D**uring the spring of 2012, the SDCOE Mathematics Team will focus on the following Specific Results and Key Activities:

- ✓ Leading a county-wide effort to implement professional learning communities.
- ✓ Improving the retention of highly effective teachers.
- ✓ Providing online learning tools for students, districts, and communities.
- ✓ Implementing county-wide Achievement Gap Task Force instructional initiatives.
- ✓ Creating forums for strategic dialogue among county leaders.
- ✓ Establishing forums for individuals with similar jobs to share ideas and solutions.
- ✓ Assisting small school districts in areas of common need.
- ✓ Aligning programs and services for district assistance and intervention.

The SDCOE mathematics team is continuously working on developing additional resources that will assist San Diego county schools and districts in meeting their students' needs in the area of mathematics. We look forward to accomplishing this large but worthwhile goal, and we are here to assist in any way. Be on the lookout for resources and trainings that will be offered throughout the year. For additional information, resources, and/or to find our Professional Development Calendar, visit the San Diego County Office of Education Mathematics website at [www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/lret/math/](http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/lret/math/) or send us an e-mail. Our Mathematics Resources can be found at [store.sdcoe.net/product.asp?div=01](http://store.sdcoe.net/product.asp?div=01). In addition, there is a San Diego County Math Blog—<http://sandiegomath.tumblr.com>—that is filled with current news, events, and resources.

### Common Core Standards Update

The California Department of Education has created a comprehensive Web page ([www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/cc/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/cc/)) devoted to the California Common Core Standards (CaCCSS), which were adopted by the California State Board of Education on Au-

gust 2, 2010. This page includes links to the adopted standards for both mathematics and English-language arts, as well as to useful informational flyers and PowerPoint presentations on the CaCCSS. Two-page summaries are available on topics such as how the standards are designed to prepare students for success in Algebra I. For answers to frequently asked questions about the standards, curriculum frameworks, instructional materials, and assessments, visit [www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cc/ccssfaqs2010.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cc/ccssfaqs2010.asp).

Other CaCCSS websites include:

- ✓ San Diego Common Core Connection Web page: [www.sdcoe.net/commoncore/](http://www.sdcoe.net/commoncore/)
- ✓ California Mathematics Council (CMC) Common Core Standards Web page: [www.cmc-math.org/news/commoncore.html](http://www.cmc-math.org/news/commoncore.html)
- ✓ California Mathematics Council (CMC) Common Core State Standards: Education Policy Roundtable Blog: [cmc-math.blogspot.com/](http://cmc-math.blogspot.com/)
- ✓ National Council of Teachers of Mathematics "Common Core State Standards Implementation": [www.nctm.org/news/content.asp?id=26294](http://www.nctm.org/news/content.asp?id=26294).

### Focus on Algebra Website

Focus on Algebra is a resource website developed to support mathematics educators and educational leaders as they develop students' algebraic thinking, utilize formative assessment, and provide intervention support in an effort to have all students reach success in algebra. Each section of the website has a menu that includes an introduction, frequently asked questions, resources, and considerations for meeting the needs of students and educators in an effort to have all students successful in algebra. You can visit this free resource by going to [focusonalgebra.sdcoe.net/](http://focusonalgebra.sdcoe.net/).

### Getting Ready for Algebra: Backwards Mapping Algebra I Standards to Pre-K Foundations

Half-day trainings are available for site/district mathematics leaders, principals, grade level-department teacher leaders, and curriculum and instruction administrators. District mathematics

teams are recommended. This professional development session will focus on the publication “Getting Ready for Algebra: Backwards Mapping.” This resource takes all the Algebra I standards and backwards maps them down to preschool foundations with benchmarks and content examples. This session will share ideas and use of this publication on building a strong foundation to support district and site efforts to ensure students are successful in Algebra I and beyond. To obtain this resource, go to [store.sdcoe.net/product.asp?div=01&PID=163](http://store.sdcoe.net/product.asp?div=01&PID=163). For more information, contact Jameson Rienick at [jrienick@sdcoe.net](mailto:jrienick@sdcoe.net).

### **CST and CAHSEE Resources**

All California Standards Test (CST) and California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) resources and other state assessment resources, such as the CAHSEE Student Study Guide and CST-released questions, can be found at the California Department of Education (CDE) website [www.cde.ca.gov/ta/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/). At the website select either California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) and/or Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR). Next, select Program Resources to find blueprint and released item documents. Another resource found on the STAR Web page ([starsamplequestions.org/](http://starsamplequestions.org/)) is Sample STAR Test Questions for Parents and Teachers. This searchable website features questions by grade level from the California Standards Tests, including information about levels of performance and grade-level parent guides.

For the complete San Diego County Data Summary Reports visit [www.sdcoe.net/lret2/dsi/welcome.asp?loc=districts\\_san\\_diego\\_county\\_data\\_reports&m=1](http://www.sdcoe.net/lret2/dsi/welcome.asp?loc=districts_san_diego_county_data_reports&m=1). For specific information on the student performance levels, to create reports, and to find facts about California schools and districts, visit Data Quest at [dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/](http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/). For specific information on how students performed in specific reporting clusters (groups of standards), contact your local school district office.

### **Upcoming Teacher Workshops and Conferences**

For dates, times, and locations of trainings, go to our Professional Development Calendar at [www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/lret2/math/?loc=calendar](http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/lret2/math/?loc=calendar). The SDCOE mathematics team also provides a menu of services to customize district support. Schools

and districts can get started by determining their training needs, select possible training dates and locations, and contact us for scheduling. A link to the available menu of services is found on the Professional Development Calendar.

### **Mathematics Standards Management System (MSMS)**

The Mathematics Standards Management System is designed for educators committed to powerful mathematics education for all students. Models of best practices are provided so that every student understands and successfully employs mathematical thinking, a critical element in closing the achievement gap. Visit MSMS at [sms.sdcoe.net/sms/ma/home](http://sms.sdcoe.net/sms/ma/home).

Also in MSMS are free Mathematics Classroom Instructional Videos for Grades 1 and 5—two mathematics instructional materials videos that have been released by the SDCOE mathematics team. The focus of each video is on mathematics teachers, one for each grade 1 and 5, implementing a mathematics lesson using their new adoption instructional materials from the publisher enVision Scott Foresman. Along with watching the lesson showing a teacher and students in action, you can also select to watch the lessons while listening to a teacher’s commentary. Highlight videos are also available on the topics of Using the Materials, Tools for Learning, Teacher Talk, Student Talk, Learning Environment, Informed Instruction, and Ensuring Balance. For access to these free videos, visit the SDCOE Math Standards Management System (MSMS) at [sms.sdcoe.net/SMS/mas/professionalDevelopment.asp](http://sms.sdcoe.net/SMS/mas/professionalDevelopment.asp) and look for the title SB 472 Videos.

### **County Mathematics Leaders Network**

Lastly, we welcome all of you serving in a leadership role to take part in the San Diego County Mathematics Leaders Network Advisory meetings. The 2012 meetings are scheduled for February 7, 2012 and May 8, 2012, at the San Diego County Office of Education, 3:00–5:00 P.M. in the Joe Rindone Regional Technology Center. These meetings are a great opportunity to network and share resources. For information and registration, contact Jameson Rienick at [jrienick@sdcoe.net](mailto:jrienick@sdcoe.net).

### **SDCOE Mathematics Unit**

- ◆ Jameson Rienick, Mathematics Coordinator, (858) 569-5302, [jrienick@sdcoe.net](mailto:jrienick@sdcoe.net) □

## GSDMC Student Events Planned for 2012

**G**SDMC has a variety of student contests and field days planned for 2012. Preliminary information about some of these events is given below. You can also go to the GSDMC web site ([www.gsdmc.org](http://www.gsdmc.org)) for more information.

### MATHCOUNTS Competition

The San Diego MATHCOUNTS Competition is scheduled from 8 A.M. to 3 P.M. on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at UCSD. The local (chapter) competition will consist of the Sprint, Target, Team, and Countdown Rounds. The highest scoring teams will advance to the state competition at U.C. Irvine in March 2012.

For more information about MATHCOUNTS locally, contact Peter Livingston at [peter@livingstonengineering.com](mailto:peter@livingstonengineering.com) or visit [www.mathcounts-ca.org](http://www.mathcounts-ca.org). Teachers may also want to visit the California Society of Professional Engineers web site at [www.cspe.com](http://www.cspe.com).

### Middle School Math Field Day

The 43rd Annual Middle School Math Field Day will be held on May 12, 2012 at Francis Parker Middle School, 6501 Linda Vista Rd, San Diego. There will be twelve events for middle school students in grades 6–9. Schools may send one student or an entire team of 16 to participate.

Contests will include Mad Hatter (Grade 7); Mad Hatter (Grade 8); Math Bowl (Grade 7); Math Wits (Grade 8); Win-Lose-Draw (team of 2); Tri-Team Attack (team of 3); Dynamic Duo (team of two 6th graders); and the math games of 24 Challenge (6th, 7th, and 8th grade divisions), Equate (Grade 7), and Sudoku (Grade 8).

For more information or to register:

- ✓ E-mail: [ccole@francisparker.org](mailto:ccole@francisparker.org)
- ✓ Call: Christi Cole at (858) 569-7900x4207
- ✓ Web: [fc.francisparker.org/~CCole/field\\_day.htm](http://fc.francisparker.org/~CCole/field_day.htm)

Please register by May 1, 2012.

### 24 Challenge Math Tournament

GSDMC is planning to provide support once again for a 24 Challenge Math Tournament tentatively scheduled for May 31, 2012. It is anticipated that students in grades 4–8 will be able to participate.

For more information, contact Carole Mander-son at [cmanders@cox.net](mailto:cmanders@cox.net).

### Senior High Math Field Day

This year's 49th Annual Senior High Math Field Day event will be held once again at beautiful Cuyamaca Community College. The competition will take place Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 8:15 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. A team consists of a maximum of 10 students from grades 9–12. There are two rounds of competition for the event and each team member can take part in one event in each round.

In the first round teams of two students can take part in Dual Dig I, Dual Dig II, or the Technology Tandem events. In the second round of competition students can take part in the Rapid Transit Event, the Short Course Event, or the Statistics event. The Statistics event, called "Statistically Speaking," is a new event where students work statistics problems that one might expect from a Statistics or AP Statistics class (good preparation for the AP Statistics exam!).

If you would like to see samples of past events from the Field Day, contact either Eric Preibisius, (619) 660-4248, [eric.preibisius@gcccd.edu](mailto:eric.preibisius@gcccd.edu), or Tammi Marshall, (619) 660-4284, [tammi.marshall@gcccd.edu](mailto:tammi.marshall@gcccd.edu). If you have any questions or concerns or want to get your registration packets, contact Eric or Tammi at the e-mail addresses or phone numbers given above.

### High School Honors Math Contest

The University of California, San Diego (UCSD), in conjunction with the Greater San Diego Math Council (GSDMC) and the San Diego County Of-

Office of Education (SDCOE) will sponsor the 55th Annual High School Honors Mathematics Contest at UCSD on Saturday, April 21, 2012 beginning at 7:45 A.M. and running through 12:30 P.M.

The contest consists of two 1.5-hour exams: Part 1 contains 25 multiple-choice questions and Part 2 contains four problems requiring written solutions. The multiple-choice exam is used to determine the team awards. Individual awards are based on both exams.

Each high school can enter a team of eight members, and an additional four members may audit the exam. An awards banquet hosted by the UCSD Mathematics Department is tentatively scheduled for the evening of May 2 at the UCSD Faculty Club. Details will be announced on the contest day.

If you are interested in entering a team, please contact Jameson Rienick as early as possible at [jrienick@sdcoe.net](mailto:jrienick@sdcoe.net) so that we may know your intent and include you in our planning



### High School Honors Statistics Contest

The University of California, San Diego (UCSD), in conjunction with the Greater San Diego Math Council (GSDMC), the San Diego County Office

of Education (SDCOE), and the San Diego Chapter of the American Statistical Association (SDASA) will sponsor the Fifth Annual High School Honors Statistics Contest at UCSD (Peterson 110) on Saturday, April 28, 2012 beginning at 7:45 A.M. and ending at 11:30 A.M.

The Contest will consist of two exams. The first exam will be a 60-minute exam with 25 multiple-choice questions. The second exam will be a 90-minute exam with four written-response questions. Both parts of the exam will cover the AP Placement Probability and Statistics and Probability and Statistics California Mathematics Content Standards, and the College Board AP Statistics content.

Each high school can enter a team of 3–8 members. Teams compete in a single (open) division. The top three individual scores in each part will determine the team score. An awards banquet hosted by the UCSD Mathematics Department is tentatively scheduled for the evening of May 9 at the UCSD Faculty Club. Details will be announced on the contest day.

If you are interested in entering a team, please send an e-mail to Jameson Rienick as early as possible at [jrienick@sdcoe.net](mailto:jrienick@sdcoe.net) so that we may know your intent and include you in our planning. □

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## Calendar of Mathematics Events

February 3–4, 2012	GSDMC Annual Conference, Marina Village
February 3, 2012	GSDMC Annual Banquet and Teacher Recognition, Dana Inn
February 7, 2012	San Diego County Math Leaders Meeting, 3–5 P.M., SDCOE
February 25, 2012	San Diego MATHCOUNTS Competition, UCSD
March 13, 2012	GSDMC Board Meeting, 3:30–5 P.M., SDCOE/NCREC
March 9–10, 2012	CMC-Central STEMposium, Fresno
March 10, 2012	Senior High Math Field Day, Cuyamaca College
April 10, 2012	GSDMC Board Meeting, 3:30–5 P.M., SDCOE/NCREC
April 21, 2012	High School Honors Math Contest, UCSD
April 23–25, 2012	NCSM Annual Conference, Philadelphia
April 25–28, 2012	NCTM Annual Meeting, Philadelphia
April 28, 2012	High School Honors Statistics Contest, UCSD
May 2, 2012	High School Honors Contest Awards Banquet, UCSD
May 8, 2012	GSDMC Board Meeting, 3:30–5 P.M., SDCOE/NCREC
May 9, 2012	High School Honors Statistics Contest Awards Banquet, UCSD
May 12, 2012	Middle School Math Field Day, Francis Parker School
May 31, 2012	24 Challenge Tournament, TBD
June 12, 2012	GSDMC Board Meeting, 3:30–5 P.M., SDCOE/NCREC



## For Your Information

### Nicholas Branca Memorial Scholarship

**N**icholas Branca, mathematics professor, innovator, and leader passed away February 25, 2008 and is missed by all of those who knew him and worked with him. Since coming to San Diego in 1976, Nicholas was always involved in and dedicated to the professional development of mathematics teachers locally as well as statewide. He instilled his passion for the teaching and learning of mathematics in teachers throughout California

To honor Nicholas Branca's work and to ensure that his passion for mathematics lives on in California, the Nicholas A. Branca Memorial Scholarship Foundation was established. Two \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded for the academic year 2012–13 to teachers. All teachers throughout the state are eligible for these scholarships that are for graduate work in mathematics education.

To find out more information about the scholarships, go to [www.nicholasbrancafoundation.org](http://www.nicholasbrancafoundation.org). Applications will be available February 1, 2012 on the website, with a due date of May 15, 2012 and an announcement date of June 1, 2012. Questions about the scholarships should be directed to Melanie Branca at (619) 807-1698 or e-mail: [mbranca@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mbranca@sbcglobal.net).



### Curtis Center Mathematics and Teaching Conference

**T**he sixth annual UCLA Mathematics Department's Philip C. Curtis Jr. Center for Mathematics and Teaching Conference "Exercise Your Common Core" will be held on March 3, 2012. The conference will focus on the Common Core Standards for mathematics and is composed of a keynote talk and breakout sessions in three areas: Common Core Preparation for Elementary, Middle, and High School.

This year's keynote speaker is Jason Zimba, a Bennington College Professor of Physics and Mathematics. Jason is a co-founder of Student Achievement Partners. As a lead writer of the Common Core State Standards for mathematics, Jason was instrumental in achieving a new state

of the art for internationally-benchmarked, college- and career-ready standards based on evidence. In addition, an outstanding group of speakers have agreed to present in the breakout sessions. We believe the day will be thought-provoking and worthwhile for mathematics teachers, mathematics teacher leaders, mathematics education researchers, and mathematicians alike.

For more information, go to [www.curtiscenter.math.ucla.edu/continuing.html](http://www.curtiscenter.math.ucla.edu/continuing.html).



### Math for America San Diego 2012 NSF Noyce Master Teaching Fellowship

**A**pplications for the Math for America San Diego (MfA SD) 2012 NSF Noyce Master Teaching Fellowship are now available. This five-year program is a professional and leadership development program for experienced middle and high school mathematics teachers and focuses on critical review of existing teaching approaches and curricula, examination of the 2014 California Common Core Standards for mathematics, and teacher leadership enhancement. MfA SD Master Teaching Fellows will be members of an intensive professional development and leadership program that includes annual three-week summer institutes and seminars during the academic year (approximately 200 hours per year). Participants receive \$50,000 in stipends over the five-year program.

Eligible applicants are current mathematics teachers in San Diego County middle and high schools with at least eight years of teaching experience; however, applicants with six or seven years are considered. Applicants must have a master's degree (in mathematics, education, or related field), a strong mathematics background, teach in a high-need school or school district and possess exemplary teaching and interpersonal skills. The application deadline is March 16, 2012.

To learn more about the program and/or to apply, visit [www.mathforamerica.org/apply/san-diego/master-teachers](http://www.mathforamerica.org/apply/san-diego/master-teachers) or contact Program Coordinator Susan Millen at [sandiego@mathforamerica.org](mailto:sandiego@mathforamerica.org). □

