# AC 2012-3723: TOYS 'N MORE: STEM STUDENTS INTRODUCED TO ONE OR MORE INTERVENTION STRATEGIES 

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## Dr. Catherine L. Cohan, Pennsylvania State University, University Park

Catherine Cohan has 15 years of experience as a research psychologist. She has expertise in the use of longitudinal designs, various modes of data collection (e.g., questionnaires, personal interviews, observational data), and survey research methods.

## Dr. Yu-Chang Hsu, Boise State University

Yu-Chang Hsu is Assistant Professor of educational technology at Boise State University. His research interests include cognitive and metacognitive processes of integrating multiple external representations in STEM fields, learning and instructional innovation through emerging technologies, and information and new media literacy. Before joining Boise State University, he served as the Assessment Coordinator (postdoctoral scholar) for the College of Engineering at Penn State University in the Toys'n MORE project funded by the NSF STEM Talent Expansion Program Grant (DUE \# 0756992). He was one of the project leaders, conducting STEM education research with populations including underrepresented students, coordinating assessment efforts across 15 commonwealth campuses, and providing leadership in writing the annual reports.
Hsu is selected as one of the Mobile Learning Scholars of Boise State University for his innovative proposal on integrating mobile learning and applications in his graduate level course Instructional Message Design, where students engage in real-time data collection, design example sharing, and community building. He has taught a new workshop for K-12 teachers and a new course for graduate students on using Google's Android App Inventor to help educators leverage the power of mobile computing and applications for learning and instruction. In a recent project funded by Idaho Digital Learning Academy, he assesses K-12 online students' learning through triangulating survey responses, mining server logs, and analyzing online discussion activities. In addition, he currently serves as one of the PIs of a research project developing an artificial intelligence Decision Support System (DSS) to help online K-12 educators, including STEM teachers, detect at-risk students and provide early pedagogical intervention.

## Dr. Jill L. Lane, Clayton State University

Jill Lane has more than 15 years experience working with faculty and teaching assistants on methods to enhance teaching and learning. She has conducted various workshops on teaching methods at universities and at international conferences. While at Penn State, she worked with numerous departments on course restructuring and collaborated with more than 300 faculty members on the design, assessment, and evaluation of their courses. She is currently the Dean of Assessment and Instructional Development at Clayton State University, where she oversees faculty development and accreditation activities. Lane holds a doctorate of education in instructional systems from Penn State, a master's of education in computing in education from Rosemont College, and a bachelor of science in mathematics education from Penn State. Her research centers on the sustainability of innovations in education.

## Dr. Amy Freeman, Pennsylvania State University, University Park

Amy L. Freeman is Assistant Dean of Engineering Diversity at the Pennsylvania State University, where she received her Ph.D. in workforce education and her M.S. in architectural engineering. She is Co-PI on the NSF-Sponsored Toys'n MORE grant and currently manages several retention programs targeting more than 2,000 women and underrepresented technical students at all levels of the academic and career development pipeline. She is also an executive member of the National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Advocates (NAMEPA) organization.

## Dr. Javier Gomez-Calderon, Pennsylvania State University

Javier Gomez-Calderon is a professor of mathematics and Mathematics Coordinator at Penn State, New Kensington. He is the author or co-author of 31 articles, four textbooks, four in-house booklets, and the faculty mentor of eight student publications. Gomez-Calderon served as the Head of the Mathematics Division (fourteen campuses) from 2002 to 2006, as the Mathematics Division Coordinator from 2010 to 2011, and obtained his Ph.D. in 1986 from the University of Arizona. Gomez-Calderon was the recipient of the 2007 Milton S. Eisenhower Award for Distinguished Teaching, the 2002 Commonwealth College Outstanding Research Award, the 2001 Valley News Dispatch Coach of the Year, the 1997 New Kensington Excellence in Teaching Award, the 1996 Theresa Cohen Mathematics Service Award, and the 1989 New Kensington Excellence in Teaching Award.

## Dr. Dhushy Sathianathan, California State University, Long Beach

Dhushy Sathianathan is the Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Engineering. He has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Penn State University and a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Oklahoma State University. Sathianathan has been actively involved in engineering education initiatives since 1994. He led several NSF funded initiatives to enhance engineering education, especially focused on retention. He is the Co-founder of the Center for Engineering Design and Entrepreneurship. He is a Boeing Welliver Faculty Fellow. He has received the Boeing Outstanding Educator Award and DOW Outstanding Faculty Award for his work in engineering education.

## Dr. Renata S. Engel P.E., Pennsylvania State University, University Park

Renata S. Engel is Associate Dean for academic programs in the College of Engineering at Penn State. A member of the Penn State faculty since 1990, she is professor of engineering design and engineering science and mechanics and has served as Executive Director of the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence.
Engel is PI of the NSF-Sponsored Toys'n MORE grant at Penn State. Through various projects and initiatives, she has incorporated elements of design in fundamental engineering courses, and has provided leadership to Penn State's efforts to assess student learning outcomes. For her individual and collaborative contributions to engineering education, she has received several awards including the University's George W. Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Dow Outstanding Young Faculty Award, and the Outstanding Alumna of the Fayette Campus, and Fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education. An active member in the American Society for Engineering Education, Engel has held leadership positions in the Mechanics Division and Middle Atlantic Section and as the Vice President for Member Affairs. She was ASEE President in 2010-11 and is currently on the Board of Directors.

# Toys and Mathematical Options for Retention in Engineering (Toys'n MORE) 

STEM Students Introduced to One or More Intervention Strategies

This paper presents preliminary data resulting from the implementation of a project referred to as Toys and Mathematical Options for Retention in Engineering (Toys'n MORE). The Toys'n MORE study is funded through the Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP grant, DUE \# 0756992) of the National Science Foundation and seeks to increase the retention of students pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) degrees. With an emphasis on the proportion of engineering majors, Toys'n MORE seeks to increase the number of students in STEM majors by as much as $10 \%$.

This project is being conducted by the College of Engineering at The Pennsylvania State University. The project involves the College of Engineering and 14 geographically-dispersed campuses in the Penn State system. These campuses serve as both feeder schools for the main campus and also offer baccalaureate and associate degrees in a number of STEM majors. Considering the number and geographic diversity of the campuses involved and the number of different STEM fields served, this effort is significant.

The project is based on three intervention strategies and an assessment strategy. The three intervention strategies include: (a) enhanced tutoring programs for foundational mathematics courses in algebra, trigonometry, and calculus, (b) a freshman toy-based design course (called Toy FUN-damentals) in which dissection and re-design of toys is used to engage students in a positive environment, and (c) a math-intensive summer bridge program offered at three regional campuses to facilitate underrepresented engineering freshmen as they transition from high school to college. The strength of this project lies in the comprehensive scope of the interventions as well as its large sample size.

## Applying the Intervention Strategies

Presented in this paper are data based on the project's first four semesters of data collection. Because the intervention portion of the study runs for a total of eight semesters, the reported data are preliminary.

This paper has three goals. First, it updates the information presented in our 2011 ASEE paper by providing the most current information regarding the STEM degrees offered at the 14 regional Penn State campuses. Second, it examines the number of students in the three interventions and their math final exam performance when engaged in one versus two interventions. Reported are numbers of students in the targeted math courses who participated in tutoring, the toy-design courses, and the regional summer bridge programs as well as the number of students engaged in two of the three interventions (e.g., math tutoring and a toy-design course). Third, math course grades for the pre-intervention (baseline or comparison) sample and the intervention sample (to date) at each of the participating campuses are presented.

## One Project, 14 Campuses

To understand the breadth of this project, a map of the participating campus locations throughout the state of Pennsylvania is shown in Figure 1, below. The interventions initiated by Toys'n MORE are underway at 14 of these regional campuses. The University Park campus, the main and largest campus in the Penn State system, is the administrative home of the University and the Toys'n MORE project. With close to 6,700 STEM students enrolled full and part-time at these 14 geographically-dispersed locations, the regional campuses are an integral part of the Penn State system.


Figure 1: Regional Campuses Participating in the Toys'n MORE Study

Overall, a total of 21 distinct terminal STEM degrees are offered by the 14 participating regional campuses. The degrees range from majors such as biology, earth science, engineering, and engineering technology to information science, mining, as well as science, several of which include options (Tables 1A and 1B, below). There are 11 distinct terminal baccalaureate STEM degrees (Table 1A) and 10 distinct terminal associate STEM degrees (Table 1B) offered by the 14 participating campuses. Not all campuses offer all degrees.

These campuses also offer the first two years of many STEM degrees that require students from the regional campuses to transfer to the main campus (University Park) in order to complete their degree in more than 100 STEM baccalaureate degree programs. The majority of these students are in baccalaureate majors such as engineering and science.

Table 1A: STEM Majors and Enrollments in Terminal Baccalaureate Degrees at 14 Penn State Regional Campuses
(Fall 2009 and Fall 2010, total)

| Baccalaureate STEM Degree Majors | Enrollment <br> Total | Campuses <br> Where Offered |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| Biology: <br> Genetics and Developmental Biology Opt. (GENET) <br> Vertebrate Physiology Opt. (VPHOS) |  |  |
| Earth Sciences | 95 | ${ }^{1}$ Abington |
| Electrical Engineering Technology (EET) | 19 | ${ }^{4}$ DuBois |$|$| Ele |
| :--- |
| Electro-Mechanical Engineering (EMET) |

Table 1B: STEM Majors and Enrollments in Terminal Associate Degrees at 14 Penn State Regional Campuses
(Fall 2009 and Fall 2010, total)

| Associate STEM Degree Majors | Enrollment Total | Campuses Where Offered |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Biomedical Engineering Technology (2 BET) | 50 | ${ }^{10}$ New Kensington |
| Building Engineering Technology (2 BLET) | 62 | ${ }^{5}$ Fayette, <br> ${ }^{13}$ Worthington-Scranton |
| Electrical Engineering Technology (2 EET) | 91 | ${ }^{5}$ Fayette, ${ }^{7}$ Hazleton, ${ }^{14}$ York |
| Information Sciences and Technology (2 IST) | 226 | ${ }^{2}$ Beaver, ${ }^{4}$ DuBois, ${ }^{5}$ Fayette, <br> ${ }^{7}$ Hazleton, ${ }^{8}$ Lehigh Valley, <br> ${ }^{9}$ Mont Alto, ${ }^{10}$ New <br> Kensington, ${ }^{11}$ Schuylkill, <br> ${ }^{12}$ Wilkes Barre, <br> ${ }^{13}$ Worthington-Scranton, <br> ${ }^{14}$ York |
| Materials Engineering Technology (2 MATE) | 12 | ${ }^{4}$ DuBois |
| Mechanical Engineering Technology (2MET) | 194 | ${ }^{4}$ DuBois, ${ }^{7}$ Hazleton, ${ }^{10}$ New Kensington ${ }^{*},{ }^{14}$ York |
| Medical Laboratory Technology (2 MLT) | 16 | ${ }^{7}$ Hazleton |
| Mining Technology ( 2 MNGT) | 90 | ${ }^{5}$ Fayette |
| Science (2 SCCC) | 16 | ${ }^{4}$ DuBois, ${ }^{5}$ Fayette, ${ }^{6}$ Greater Allegheny |
| Surveying Engineering Technology (2 SRT) | 29 | ${ }^{12}$ Wilkes Barre |
| Overall <br> Associate STEM Degree Enrollment: | 786 | *Effective Spring 2012, this major is no longer available |
| Overall <br> Associate STEM Degrees Offered: | 10 |  |
| Note: STEM degrees are defined as those in science (including biology, chemistry, physics, and other "classical" sciences), technology, engineering, and mathematics. |  |  |

Table 2, below, shows the number of full and part-time students enrolled in Associate and Baccalaureate non-STEM as well as STEM degrees at the 14 participating campuses. For the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic years, the 14 regional campuses provided instruction to 34,174 full and part-time students in all disciplines during fall 2009 and fall 2010. Of these, 8604 students were enrolled in associate degree programs, and 25,570 students were enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs.

Table 2: STEM Enrollments for Full and Part-time Associate and Baccalaureate Degrees at 14 Penn State Regional Campuses (Fall 2009 and Fall 2010, total)

| Campus | Discipline | Degree |  | Both Degrees |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Associate | Baccalaureate |  |
| 1. Abington | 0) Non-STEM | 173 | 3842 | 4015 |
|  | 1) Science | 0 | 369 | 369 |
|  | 2) Technology | 0 | 250 | 250 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 0 | 359 | 359 |
|  | Undeclared | 0 | 921 | 921 |
|  | All Disciplines | 173 | 5741 | 5914 |
| 2. Beaver | 0) Non-STEM | 42 | 720 | 762 |
|  | 1) Science | 0 | 75 | 75 |
|  | 2) Technology | 11 | 105 | 116 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 0 | 142 | 142 |
|  | Undeclared | 0 | 292 | 292 |
|  | All Disciplines | 53 | 1334 | 1387 |
| 3. Brandywine | 0) Non-STEM | 71 | 1718 | 1789 |
|  | 1) Science | 0 | 138 | 138 |
|  | 2) Technology | 0 | 138 | 138 |
| 3) Engineering | 0 | 169 | 169 |  |
|  | 4) Math | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Undeclared | 0 | 584 | 584 |  |
|  | All Disciplines | 71 | 2748 | 2819 |


| Campus | Discipline | Degree |  | Both Degrees |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Associate | Baccalaureate |  |
| 4. DuBois | 0) Non-STEM | 428 | 494 | 922 |
|  | 1) Science | 105 | 130 | 235 |
|  | 2) Technology | 44 | 18 | 62 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 77 | 75 | 152 |
|  | Undeclared | 18 | 142 | 160 |
|  | All Disciplines | 672 | 859 | 1531 |
| 5. Fayette | 0) Non-STEM | 644 | 733 | 1377 |
|  | 1) Science | 0 | 74 | 74 |
|  | 2) Technology | 26 | 4 | 30 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 82 | 104 | 186 |
|  | Undeclared | 0 | 141 | 141 |
|  | All Disciplines | 752 | 1056 | 1808 |
| 6. Greater Allegheny | 0) Non-STEM | 77 | 603 | 680 |
|  | 1) Science | 0 | 106 | 106 |
|  | 2) Technology | 0 | 75 | 75 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 0 | 172 | 172 |
|  | Undeclared | 0 | 292 | 292 |
|  | All Disciplines | 77 | 1248 | 1325 |
| 7. Hazleton | 0) Non-STEM | 240 | 706 | 946 |
|  | 1) Science | 2 | 274 | 276 |
|  | 2) Technology | 15 | 72 | 87 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 52 | 264 | 316 |
|  | Undeclared | 0 | 836 | 836 |
|  | All Disciplines | 319 | 2152 | 2471 |


| Campus | Discipline | Degree |  | Both Degrees |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Associate | Baccalaureate |  |
| 8. Lehigh Valley | 0) Non-STEM | 54 | 746 | 800 |
|  | 1) Science | 0 | 137 | 137 |
|  | 2) Technology | 9 | 64 | 73 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 0 | 185 | 185 |
|  | 4) Math | 0 | 1 | 1 |
|  | Undeclared | 0 | 222 | 222 |
|  | All Disciplines | 63 | 1355 | 1418 |
| 9. Mont Alto | 0) Non-STEM | 683 | 634 | 1317 |
|  | 1) Science | 78 | 200 | 278 |
|  | 2) Technology | 25 | 37 | 62 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 0 | 170 | 170 |
|  | Undeclared | 0 | 367 | 367 |
|  | All Disciplines | 786 | 1408 | 2194 |
| 10. New Kensington | 0) Non-STEM | 188 | 550 | 738 |
|  | 1) Science | 0 | 63 | 63 |
|  | 2) Technology | 25 | 149 | 174 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 88 | 222 | 310 |
|  | Undeclared | 0 | 169 | 169 |
|  | All Disciplines | 301 | 1153 | 1454 |
| 11. Schuylkill | 0) Non-STEM | 311 | 905 | 1216 |
|  | 1) Science | 1 | 41 | 42 |
|  | 2) Technology | 10 | 54 | 64 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 1 | 88 | 89 |
|  | Undeclared | 0 | 460 | 460 |
|  | All Disciplines | 323 | 1548 | 1871 |


| Campus | Discipline | Degree |  | Both Degrees |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Associate | Baccalaureate |  |
| 12. Wilkes Barre | 0) Non-STEM | 59 | 542 | 601 |
|  | 1) Science | 1 | 100 | 101 |
|  | 2) Technology | 18 | 73 | 91 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 34 | 207 | 241 |
|  | Undeclared | 0 | 187 | 187 |
|  | All Disciplines | 112 | 1109 | 1221 |
| 13. Worthington-Scranton | 0) Non-STEM | 492 | 1035 | 1527 |
|  | 1) Science | 0 | 116 | 116 |
|  | 2) Technology | 14 | 121 | 135 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 18 | 135 | 153 |
|  | Undeclared | 1 | 536 | 537 |
|  | All Disciplines | 525 | 1943 | 2468 |
| 14. York | 0) Non-STEM | 236 | 1018 | 1254 |
|  | 1) Science | 1 | 151 | 152 |
|  | 2) Technology | 39 | 138 | 177 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 96 | 246 | 342 |
|  | Undeclared | 0 | 363 | 363 |
|  | All Disciplines | 372 | 1916 | 2288 |
| All Campuses | 0) Non-STEM | 7713 | 14,246 | 21,959 |
|  | 1) Science | 188 | 1974 | 2162 |
|  | 2) Technology | 236 | 1298 | 1534 |
|  | 3) Engineering | 448 | 2538 | 2986 |
|  | 4) Math | 0 | 2 | 2 |
|  | Undeclared | 19 | 5512 | 5531 |
|  | All Disciplines | 8604 | 25,570 | 34,174 |

Table 2, above, summarizes the number of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students enrolled at the 14 participating campuses in fall 2009 and fall 2010. During the fall semesters of these two academic years (2009-2010 and 2010-2011), there were 2162 students in
science, 1534 in technology, 2986 in engineering, and 2 in mathematics. Overall, there were 6684 full and part-time students enrolled in STEM degree majors at these campuses.

Table 3, below, shows for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic years, the 14 regional campuses provided mathematics instruction to 2461 students in Math 22 (Algebra II and Analytic Geometry) and 924 in Math 26 (Trigonometry) resulting in a total of 3385 students in pre-Calculus courses and another 925 in Math 140 (Calculus with Analytic Geometry). Overall, for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic years, the total number of students in introductory mathematics courses was 4310. In addition, the regional campuses provided engineering and engineering technology instruction to 1285 engineering students in courses such as freshman engineering design, freshman engineering seminars, and computer-related engineering courses.

Table 3: Toys'n MORE Math Course Participants Over Four Semesters (Fall 2009-Spring 2010 and Fall 2010-Spring 2011, total)

|  | Algebra II \& Geometry (Math 022) |  | Trigonometry (Math 026) |  | Calculus(Math 140) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Total \# math course students | 2461 | 100 | 924 | 100 | 925 | 100 |
|  | N | \% ${ }^{1}$ | N | \% | N | \% |
| Gender: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 1265 | 63 | 647 | 70 | 673 | 73 |
| Female | 736 | 37 | 276 | 30 | 246 | 27 |
| Race: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White | 1151 | 70 | 690 | 75 | 732 | 79 |
| Non-White | 502 | 30 | 235 | 25 | 193 | 21 |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ Generation College Student | 893 | 45 | 405 | 44 | 371 | 40 |
| Intended major = STEM | 984 | 51 | 741 | 86 | 773 | 84 |
| Participated in a summer bridge program | 54 | 3 | 21 | 2 | 28 | 3 |
| Received some math tutoring ${ }^{2}$ | 753 | 52 | 372 | 59 | 285 | 44 |
| Enrolled in a freshman engineering design class | 127 | 9 | 129 | 20 | 148 | 23 |

Note: ${ }^{1}$ Because some students opted not to answer specific questions, the percentages are based on the number of math course students who answered the question, not the total number of students. ${ }^{2}$ Questions regarding math tutoring and enrollment in freshman engineering design classes were added in the second semester of data collection (spring 2010).

## Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Math Students in the Toys'n MORE Study

In addition to illustrating the scope of the study through the number of available STEM majors from which students might choose (Tables 1A and 1B), the scope is further illustrated through the number of students exposed to any of the three interventions. The math tutoring intervention is offered to students enrolled in a combined algebra-geometry course, a trigonometry course, and a calculus course. Math tutoring interventions vary by campus. Some campuses offer a formal 1-credit tutoring course that requires weekly attendance, and some campuses offer lessformal drop-in tutoring. Table 3, above, shows the number of math students at the participating campuses that had access to and utilized the math tutoring as well as some characteristics of these students. A majority of the math students were white, males and intended to enter a STEM major. A slight majority of algebra-geometry and trigonometry students obtained tutoring. A modest proportion of the math students were also enrolled in a freshman engineering design course. A very small proportion of the math students participated in a summer bridge program.

Table 4: Math Exam Performance as a Function of Enrollment in a Summer Bridge Program (Fall 2009-Spring 2010 and Fall 2010-Spring 2011, total)

|  | Enrolled in Summer Bridge Program |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Algebra-Geometry <br> Students |  | Trigonometry Students |  | Calculus Students |  |  |  |  |
|  | Yes | No | t(1557) | Yes | No | $\mathbf{t}(695)$ | Yes | No | t(717) |
|  | 40 | 1519 |  | 21 | 676 |  | 25 | 694 |  |
| Post-Test Score |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mean | $55 \%$ | $51 \%$ | 1.42 | $43 \%$ | $48 \%$ | -1.31 | $55 \%$ | $51 \%$ | $<1$ |
| (SD) | $(15 \%)$ | $(17 \%)$ |  | $(18 \%)$ | $(18 \%)$ |  | $(25 \%)$ | $(19 \%)$ |  |
| Change from Pre- to Post-Test |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mean | $32 \%$ | $27 \%$ | 1.09 | $9 \%$ | $21 \%$ | -1.81 | $24 \%$ | $27 \%$ | $<1$ |
| (SD) | $(29 \%)$ | $(29 \%)$ |  | $(31 \%)$ | $(30 \%)$ |  | $(41 \%)$ | $(33 \%)$ |  |

## Math Exam Performance as a Function of Participation in another Intervention Strategy

Next, turning to more substantive analyses, the final exam performance of students in math is examined as a function of participation in either the summer bridge program or the freshman engineering design course. Students in the math courses across the participating campuses were given the same pre-test at the beginning of the semester to test their baseline knowledge. Likewise, these same students were given a common final exam at the end of the semester. Common exams were given to allow exam scores to be combined and compared across the
campuses. The expectation was that math students enrolled in another intervention strategy would show better performance in their math courses than math students who were not enrolled in another intervention strategy. As shown in Tables 4 and 5, math students who had also participated in a summer bridge program or who were concurrently enrolled in an engineering design class did not differ from math students who did not participate in the other two interventions on their final exam scores or the percent change from the pre-test to the final exam. There was an exception to that pattern. As shown in Table 5, below, calculus students who were enrolled in a freshman engineering design course performed better on their final exam and exhibited significantly greater increases in knowledge from the pre-test to the final exam compared to the calculus students who were not enrolled in a freshman design course. In general, small sample sizes of students who enrolled in a summer bridge program or an engineering design class limit the statistical power and the ability to detect group differences.

Table 5: Math Exam Performance as a Function of Enrollment in a Freshman Engineering Design Class (Fall 2009-Spring 2010 and Fall 2010-Spring 2011, total)

|  | Enrolled in a Freshman Engineering Design Class |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Algebra-Geometry <br> Students |  |  | Trigonometry Students |  |  | Calculus Students |  |  |
|  | Yes | No | t(1455) | Yes | No | t(628) | Yes | No | t(640) |
|  | 127 | 1330 |  | 129 | 501 |  | 148 | 494 |  |
| Post-Test Score |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mean | $53 \%$ | $52 \%$ | 1.13 | $44 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $<1$ | $56 \%$ | $49 \%$ | $3.75^{* * *}$ |
| (SD) | $(18 \%)$ | $(17 \%)$ |  | $(18 \%)$ | $(17 \%)$ |  | $(21 \%)$ | $(18 \%)$ |  |
| Change from Pre- to Post-Test |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mean | $31 \%$ | $28 \%$ | 1.22 | $19 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $<1$ | $30 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $2.04^{*}$ |
| (SD) | $(26 \%)$ | $(28 \%)$ |  | $(32 \%)$ | $(29 \%)$ |  | $(35 \%)$ | $(34 \%)$ |  |

Note: ${ }^{* * *} p<0.001$ and ${ }^{*} p<0.05$

## Math Course Grades for Baseline (Pre-Intervention) and Intervention Samples

Next, the overall math course performance as illustrated by the course grade is presented. This is an intermediate measure of the efficacy of the Toys'n MORE study. A visual inspection of the math grade data by campus is presented for the period of time before the Toys'n MORE interventions were implemented (baseline or comparison sample, fall 2003 through spring 2009) and for the period to date for the intervention (fall 2009 through spring 2011). Tables 6-8 show the math grade data for algebra-geometry, trigonometry, and calculus, respectively. The broad goal is to show an increase in the proportion of A and B grades from the baseline period to the intervention period. Because poor math grades can be a barrier to the successful completion of a

STEM major, better performance in the foundational math courses is expected to increase the likelihood of graduating with a STEM degree. Visual inspection of the tables indicates increases and decreases in the proportion of A's and B's among students in the algebra-geometry and trigonometry courses from the baseline period to the intervention period at the different campuses. Increases in the proportion of A's and B's from the baseline to intervention period are more consistent for the calculus grades. Considering there are various factors, other than the Toys'n MORE interventions that can affect math grades (e.g., changes in standards and/or faculty), we are in the process of trying to understand the variability in the proportions of A's and B's in these math courses over time.

Table 6: Algebra-Geometry Grades (Math 22) by Campus among STEM Majors for the Baseline Period and the Intervention Period (to date)

Baseline Sample
(Fall 2003-Spring 2009)
Intervention Sample
(Fall 2009-Spring 2011)

| Campus | Grade of A or B |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Grade of } \\ \mathrm{C} \end{gathered}$ |  | Grade of A or B |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Grade of } \\ \text { C } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total \# Enrolled | N | \% | N | \% | Total \# Enrolled | N | \% | N | \% |
| Abington | 346 | 131 | 37.9 | 71 | 20.5 | 122 | 47 | 38.5 | 26 | 21.3 |
| Beaver | 125 | 56 | 44.8 | 34 | 27.2 | 37 | 22 | 59.5 | 5 | 13.5 |
| Brandywine | 101 | 41 | 40.6 | 15 | 14.9 | 67 | 14 | 20.9 | 14 | 20.9 |
| DuBois | 99 | 51 | 51.5 | 20 | 20.2 | 64 | 28 | 43.8 | 12 | 18.8 |
| Fayette | 70 | 51 | 72.9 | 13 | 18.6 | 32 | 22 | 68.8 | 4 | 12.5 |
| Greater <br> Allegheny | 129 | 54 | 41.9 | 20 | 15.5 | 42 | 12 | 28.6 | 5 | 11.9 |
| Hazleton | 285 | 109 | 38.2 | 61 | 21.4 | 123 | 65 | 52.8 | 18 | 14.6 |
| Lehigh Valley | 94 | 51 | 54.3 | 19 | 20.0 | 32 | 26 | 81.3 | 4 | 12.5 |
| New <br> Kensington | 111 | 37 | 33.3 | 31 | 27.9 | 43 | 12 | 27.9 | 14 | 32.6 |
| Wilkes-Barre | 113 | 44 | 38.9 | 29 | 25.7 | 56 | 23 | 41.1 | 14 | 25.0 |
| Worthington Scranton | 123 | 58 | 47.2 | 30 | 24.4 | 58 | 26 | 44.8 | 13 | 22.4 |
| York | 82 | 50 | 61.0 | 16 | 19.5 | 28 | 17 | 60.7 | 5 | 17.9 |
| Total | 1678 | 733 | 43.7 | 359 | 21.4 | 704 | 314 | 44.6 | 134 | 19.0 |

Table 7: Trigonometry Grades (Math 26) by Campus among STEM Majors for the Baseline Period and the Intervention Period (to date)

| Campus | Baseline Sample <br> (Fall 2003-Spring 2009) |  |  |  |  | Intervention Sample (Fall 2009-Spring 2011) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Grade of A or B |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Grade of } \\ & \text { C } \end{aligned}$ |  |  | Grade of A or B |  | Grade of C |  |
|  | Total \# Enrolled | N | \% | N | \% | Total \# Enrolled | N | \% | N | \% |
| Abington | 197 | 62 | 31.5 | 51 | 25.9 | 93 | 26 | 28.0 | 27 | 29.0 |
| Beaver | 56 | 27 | 48.2 | 18 | 32.1 | 26 | 10 | 38.5 | 9 | 34.6 |
| Brandywine | 39 | 19 | 48.7 | 7 | 17.9 | 48 | 6 | 12.5 | 17 | 35.4 |
| DuBois | 44 | 29 | 65.9 | 3 | 6.8 | 24 | 14 | 58.3 | 2 | 8.3 |
| Fayette | 39 | 24 | 61.5 | 5 | 12.8 | 22 | 14 | 63.6 | 5 | 22.7 |
| Greater <br> Allegheny | 66 | 28 | 42.4 | 15 | 22.7 | 37 | 11 | 29.7 | 5 | 13.5 |
| Hazleton | 160 | 66 | 41.3 | 40 | 25.0 | 82 | 40 | 48.8 | 19 | 23.2 |
| Lehigh Valley | 64 | 35 | 54.7 | 23 | 35.9 | 26 | 10 | 38.5 | 9 | 34.6 |
| New <br> Kensington | 78 | 28 | 35.9 | 23 | 29.5 | 31 | 6 | 19.4 | 8 | 25.8 |
| Wilkes-Barre | 84 | 32 | 38.1 | 17 | 20.2 | 38 | 15 | 39.5 | 11 | 28.9 |
| Worthington Scranton | 56 | 24 | 42.9 | 19 | 33.9 | 36 | 19 | 52.8 | 9 | 25.0 |
| York | 8 | 4 | 50.0 | 1 | 12.5 | 11 | 7 | 63.6 | 2 | 18.2 |
| Total | 891 | 378 | 42.4 | 222 | 24.9 | 474 | 178 | 37.6 | 123 | 25.9 |

Table 8: Calculus Grades (Math 140) by Campus among STEM Majors for the Baseline Period and the Intervention Period (to date)

Baseline Sample
Intervention Sample
(Fall 2003-Spring 2009)
(Fall 2009-Spring 2011)

| Campus |  | Grade of A or B |  | Grade of C |  | Grade of A or B |  |  | Grade of C |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total \# Enrolled | N | \% | N | \% | Total \# Enrolled | N | \% | N | \% |
| Abington | 233 | 125 | 53.6 | 33 | 14.2 | 92 | 44 | 47.8 | 12 | 13.0 |
| Beaver | 78 | 29 | 37.2 | 24 | 30.8 | 46 | 13 | 28.3 | 14 | 30.4 |
| Brandywine | 10 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 20.0 | 38 | 8 | 21.1 | 8 | 21.1 |
| DuBois | 62 | 28 | 45.2 | 16 | 25.8 | 38 | 21 | 55.3 | 6 | 15.8 |
| Fayette | 60 | 34 | 56.7 | 10 | 16.7 | 34 | 18 | 52.9 | 5 | 14.7 |
| Greater <br> Allegheny | 69 | 32 | 46.4 | 18 | 26.1 | 24 | 13 | 54.2 | 3 | 12.5 |
| Hazleton | 178 | 46 | 25.8 | 40 | 22.5 | 70 | 20 | 28.6 | 18 | 25.7 |
| Lehigh Valley | 109 | 55 | 50.5 | 30 | 27.5 | 46 | 30 | 65.2 | 9 | 19.6 |
| New <br> Kensington | 111 | 30 | 27.0 | 27 | 24.3 | 30 | 14 | 46.7 | 3 | 10.0 |
| Wilkes-Barre | 87 | 24 | 27.6 | 17 | 19.5 | 24 | 11 | 45.8 | 6 | 25.0 |
| Worthington Scranton | 56 | 21 | 37.5 | 15 | 26.8 | 34 | 22 | 64.7 | 4 | 11.8 |
| York | 116 | 40 | 34.5 | 36 | 31.0 | 50 | 16 | 32.0 | 17 | 34.0 |
| Total | 1169 | 464 | 39.7 | 268 | 22.9 | 526 | 230 | 43.7 | 105 | 20.0 |

## Conclusions

This paper presents preliminary data at the half-way point of data collection for the Toys'n MORE study. The purpose of the study is to intervene in the freshman and sophomore years to increase the proportion of STEM majors, particularly in engineering, at The Pennsylvania State University. The scope and breadth of the study are strengths and challenges. Because retention data are not available yet, data are presented on two intermediate indicators -math final exam performance and math course grades. Successful math course performance is crucial for the completion of a STEM major. The data look more promising for the calculus students than for the algebra-geometry and trigonometry students. Because of the small number of students who participated in a summer bridge program, low statistical power may account for the lack of findings for the math exam performance data examined. Data collection is continuing for four more semesters. Further research questions include math exam performance as a function of the type of tutoring offered at a regional campus, freshman-year fall-semester grade point average as a function of participation in a summer bridge program, and retention in a STEM major as a function of the three interventions.

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