

**NPRIME**  
**Networking Project for Improvement in Mathematics Education**

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Wisconsin's NPRIME project began its fifth year this year. This statewide project has used the Internet to establish connections between preservice teachers, K-12 mathematics teachers and college faculty from Wisconsin's colleges and universities. The project was funded by grants from the Eisenhower Professional Development Program, the Wisconsin Electronic Communications Board and the Wisconsin ESEA Improving Teacher Quality Program. Dr. Margaret Wilsman is director of this project and she works in cooperation with a Leadership Team comprised of mathematics educators from across the state.

Following is a summary of the individual programs developed by this project.

Student NPRIME

Preservice teachers from 10 Wisconsin colleges and universities have had the opportunity in an open forum to ask questions online of master K-12 mathematics teachers concerning the teaching and learning of mathematics. They are also encouraged to express their own views on questions and concerns raised by other students. Over 250 students have participated to date.

NPRIME Online Learning Community

Fifty-one mathematics educators from state colleges and universities have joined online discussions on such topics as Wisconsin's new Performance-based Licensing, the NCTM 2000 *Principals and Standards for School Mathematics*, mathematics education research, NSF Reform Curriculum, and implications of the TIMSS study.

Book Talks

During the summer of 2002 an online discussion of Liping Ma's *Knowing and Teaching Elementary Mathematics* was organized. Plans for the 2003-2004 academic year include a discussion of the National Research Council's *Adding It Up: Helping Children Learn Mathematics*.

Face-to-Face Meetings

Each year two to three meetings of the participating mathematics educators have been held at different college and university sites. They have featured presentations and discussions of current issues in the field. Materials such as selected Mathline videos, information concerning NSF reform curriculum and the DPI *Curriculum Planning in Mathematics Guide* have been distributed to those who attend or request these materials online.

Connections Projects

NPRIME has solicited proposals and made small grants to colleges and universities for projects which involve some or all of the following elements.

- a. College faculty observations in PK-12 classrooms
- b. PK-12 students work used as case studies in college courses
- c. PK-12 teachers participation in college classrooms
- d. Preservice students connected online with PK-12 mathematics teachers
- e. College faculty connected online with PK-12 mathematics teachers
- f. Staff in high need school districts learning more about NPRIME and giving input into future directions of group.

This program was initiated last year and to date three schools have carried out such projects.

