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Connecting with Community: From Aboriginal Perspectives to Math on the Move

Aboriginal Perspectives and Math on the Move are two initiatives at the University of Regina that seek to connect the university mathematics community with the wider education community across Saskatchewan.

Aboriginal Perspectives in Mathematics is a two-part research project that strives to understand, and teach through, the cultures and experiences of Aboriginal students. One part of the project researches and designs several mathematics learning activities (lessons) and introduces these activities to a number of elementary mathematics teachers through one-day workshops. The second part explores teachers' perceptions of, and insights into, Aboriginal perspectives in the teaching and learning of mathematics. The project uses a narrative approach to explore teachers' successes, challenges, and insights into understanding and teaching mathematics curriculum through a distinctly Aboriginal content focus.

Math on the Move is a mobile version of the University of Regina math camp. Students from the Faculty of Education develop inquiry based mathematics activities at the grades 9 and/or 10 levels and then deliver them in schools across the province. School visits last half a day and involve working with the high school students in two 1-hour blocks of time, followed by a closing activity such as a math relay or a math Olympics.

In this session, the two Faculty members initiating these projects (one from the Faculty of Education and one from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Regina) will describe each of the projects and provide the audience with example activities and initial results from the research.