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NEXT ISSUE

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CMP News:

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Latest news from CMP 2011

By the time you receive this issue of **CMP News**, we will be into the New Year. The CMP team hopes that you have enjoyed a very happy holiday and that 2011 will be a good one for you. We at CMP are wrapping up the work of the CMP 2010 – the final report should be published by March – and planning the research and forums for 2011. This **CMP News** contains sneak previews of the research from this year, reports of forums held this fall, and information about a new line of research recently begun.

Les dernières nouvelles du PMC 2011

Lorsque vous recevrez ce numéro du Bulletin du PMC, le Nouvel An sera bien lancé. L'équipe du Projet profite de l'occasion pour vous transmettre ses meilleurs voeux pour 2011. Nous sommes en train de mettre les dernières touches à nos travaux de 2010 – le Rapport final de 2010 devrait paraître en mars 2011 – et nous avons déjà commencé la planification des recherches et des Forums de 2011. Ce numéro vous offre une petite avant-première des conclusions de nos recherches les plus récentes, ainsi que des nouvelles des forums qui ont eu lieu cet automne et quelques aperçus d'une nouvelle piste entamée dans nos recherches.

CMP 2010 Research – A Sneak Preview

The research conducted this year covered all 24 colleges, 2,500 programs, and 94,000 students who entered college in Fall 2009! Over 35,000 took mathematics in first semester a 12% increase over Fall 2008 and of these, 68.6% obtained good grades, up from 64.6% in 2007 and 67.0% in 2008. So, for all of our readers – whether in schools, colleges, or ministries – who are all working hard to increase student success, we are excited to be able to report this progress. Among those whose achievement we report for the first time this year, second career students have done particularly well, with 84.5% obtaining good grades in college mathematics. More detailed analyses of this year's research will be outlined in the CMP 2010 Final Report to be published in March 2011. The data for individual colleges and Boards is now available for local analysis (see later).

CMP at Forums – Fall 2010

Fall 2010 saw three mathematics forums sponsored by regional planning teams of the School/College/Work Initiative (SCWI) that included presentations of research results from the CMP team. The first was at Northern College in Timmins on November 16. Northern has hosted three CMP forums in the past few years and this forum has evolved accordingly. This year's forum, entitled "Partnerships in Math – Innovative Ideas for Improving Student Achievement in Math", focused on professional development to support student centred mathematics instruction. Dr. Marian Small led a highly interactive session with more than 40 teachers on championing mathematics, effective communications in mathematics as well as specific mathematics topics. The CMP presentation resulted in a lively discussion of learning skills, secondary school mathematics curriculum and admission requirements.

The second was at Conestoga College on November 24, where over 40 teachers from all school boards in the immediate region participated. A major focus of discussion there was the College's expectations of students applying to Technology and Business programs.

The third forum took place in Thunder Bay, hosted by Confederation College, December 1. This was (as usual) a unique event, where the major focus was on how School Boards can utilize the CMP database to extract data relating to their graduates. CMP team members were on hand to support working teams from each participating board who analyzed and graphed their board data.

Forums planned by School/College/Work Initiative Regional Planning Teams for 2011 include:

InterOntario and Equipe de planification regionale IJECT du Centre-Sud-Ouest (hosted by Collège Boréal) – January 18, 2011

Connecting GTA Teachers RPT (hosted by Seneca College) – Spring 2011

Partnering to Achieve Student Success RPT (hosted by Algonquin College) – Spring 2011

South Western Ontario RPT (hosted by Fanshawe College) – Spring 2011

Pathways Analysis

In November, CMP published its first comprehensive and detailed report which analysed the college mathematics success of students who had followed a wide variety of mathematics pathways in secondary school en route to a variety of different programs in college. The **CMP 2009 Pathways Analysis Report** was released at the annual conference of the Ontario School Counsellors Association (OSCA) and subsequently made available to secondary school guidance departments throughout the province. The research was conducted and the report published so that information about the consequences of course selection could be available to students and those who influence those choices. The report is free for download from the CMP web site (<http://collegemathproject.senecac.on.ca>).

CMP Qualitative Research into Preparatory Mathematics

At many forums, secondary school teachers have asked about the structure and content of the first semester college mathematics curriculum. The question is hard to answer as, unlike the secondary school curriculum which is set by the Ministry for all schools to follow, each college has control over its own curriculum and often the mathematics courses for each program or group of programs are specific for those programs. In addition some colleges have preparatory or foundational courses or programs for students who choose (or are recommended) to take them. So this year, we have undertaken a qualitative exploration of the features of these first year mathematics courses, initially in just a few colleges and in technology and business programs only. This investigation will help us design more systematic research questions for 2011 and may enable us to develop new hypotheses about factors affecting student success in college mathematics. Preliminary findings will be outlined in the CMP 2010 Final Report.

Recherches analytiques du PMC relatives aux cours préparatoires de mathématiques

Aux cours des Forums organisés dans le contexte du PMC, plusieurs professeurs de mathématiques du niveau secondaire ont demandé quel est le programme d'études de mathématiques de la première séance collégiale. Il est difficile de répondre à cette question, car contrairement au cas du niveau secondaire où le Ministère de l'Éducation établit un curriculum que toutes les écoles doivent suivre, chaque collège a la possibilité de concevoir ses propres programmes d'études. Il s'ensuit que les cours de mathématiques du niveau collégial sont spécifiquement adaptés aux besoins des programmes auxquels ils se rattachent. Dans un deuxième temps, certains collèges proposent des cours préparatoires ou de mise à niveau à l'intention des étudiantes et étudiants qui choisissent de les suivre ou à qui ils sont recommandés. Par conséquent nous avons entrepris une exploration analytique de ces cours préparatoires, commençant par quelques collèges et seulement dans des programmes de technologie et d'études commerciales. Ces recherches nous aideront à établir une orientation plus systématique pour nos recherches de 2011 et nous permettront peut-être d'élaborer de nouvelles hypothèses quant aux facteurs qui ont une influence sur le succès de nos étudiantes et étudiants dans les cours de mathématiques au niveau collégial. Nos premières constatations paraîtront dans le Rapport Final du PMC 2010.

CMP Database

Many of our readers, both at college and at a majority of school boards, are already using the CMP database to extract data about their own institutions. For those who have yet to do so, we remind you that access is open to all approved users (those identified by a college VPA or a school board Superintendent), that we have an introductory webinar to orient new users, and that guiding questions are also provided to assist new users in undertaking useful research. Full information is provided on the CMP web site (<http://collegemathproject.senecac.on.ca>).