February 22, 2010

Dear Interested Geometry Teacher,

Let us first take this opportunity to invite you to learn more about our Dynamic Geometry in Classrooms project. This is a four-year research project funded by the National Science Foundation (Award# 0918744) to Texas State University San Marcos.

The project is conducting repeated randomized control trials of an approach to high school geometry that utilizes Dynamic Geometry (DG) software and supporting instructional materials to supplement instructional practices. One of the two randomized group of teachers will be used to compare effects of intervention with instruction that does not make use of computer drawing tools. DG software (e.g., the Geometer's Sketchpad) is a dynamic construction, demonstration, and exploration tool that adds a powerful dimension to the study of mathematics. You and your students can use the software to build and investigate mathematical models, objects, figures, diagrams, and graphs. (For details of the software, please see websites such as http://mathforum.org/dynamic/geometry_turned_on/about/Preface.html.) Results of this project will provide strong evidence about the effectiveness of the DG approach in high school geometry teaching, evidence that can inform school decisions about innovation in that core high school mathematics course.

The incentives for your participation include:

- Stipends ($1,350 for successful completion of the professional development training during August 2-6, 2010, $1,500 for participating in the first implementation of the DG or comparison treatment during the 2010-2011 school year and 6 half-day Saturday trainings during 2010-2011 school year, and another $1,500 for participating in the second implementation of the treatment during the 2011-2012 school year

- Partial scholarships for graduate credits for successful completion of the professional development provided by this project. You may use the credits for extension of your teaching certificate or as transfer hours to a master's degree program
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- Resource book with supporting instructional materials
- Travel funds to attend selected state mathematics conferences and make group presentations
- A peer-based support system (team building, communication, group dynamics, teachers’ helping each other) to increase your professional growth

The responsibilities of your participation include:

- Successfully completing the professional development workshops to be offered on August 2-6, 2010 and 6 half-day Saturday workshops during the 2010-2011 school year
- Using and providing evidence of what you have learned from the workshops in your classroom teaching in two consecutive school years (the 2010-2011 school year and the 2011-2012 school year), especially by adhering to the model lessons provided.
- Participating in and supporting the project’s data collection activities such as administering students’ pre- and post-tests, completing questionnaires about the implementation of what you have learned from the workshops, and supporting classroom observations conducted by the project staff.
- Committing to complete participation in the project with principal’s approval and principal-guaranteed access to a computer lab.

You are invited to join a group of excellent teachers who will make significant contributions to the teaching and learning of geometry. We look forward to reviewing your online application and potentially working with you over the next three years.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your district liaison or:

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