

SD METRO Daily Business Report-Nov. 18, 2013

SDMETRO



Daily Business Report

Monday, Nov. 18, 2013



San Diego State Launches Math Collaborative

Researchers team up with Balboa Park art and science museums to get creative with science, technology, engineering and mathematics

San Diego State's Center for Research in Mathematics and Science Education has launched a new initiative with the Balboa Park Learning Institute to bring university researchers together with staff from art and science museums to design programs to connect park visitors with math in creative ways.

The initiative, called the InforMath Collaborative, is funded by a four-year \$726,733 grant from the National Science Foundation.

SDSU researchers will collaborate with staff from the Mingei International Museum, Museum of Photographic Arts, Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and Natural History Museum to design and implement the new programs that connect visitors with mathematics in creative ways.

"Between now and mid-January, we'll be working collaboratively to design experimental public programs and activities that connect mathematics to the collections at MOPA and Mingei," said Molly Kelton, co-director of the InforMath Collaborative and university researcher. "This is a unique and exciting opportunity for us to work closely with art and science museum professionals to try and change the way our community perceives mathematics, to conduct periodic analysis on our progress, and to ultimately establish a research center for informal mathematics learning in the park."



Molly Kelton, co-director of the InforMath Collaborative

The InforMath Collaborative is to implement a pilot project by mid-March of 2014 for the public to participate in. Researchers will then review and analyze data from the pilot through September and prepare to launch a more extensive research and development lab the following two years of the initiative.

"This is the first large-scale, multi-institution initiative of its kind giving mathematics, science and art professionals an opportunity to learn from each other and together come up with new and more expansive ways to draw the community into the park," said Lisa Silagyi, director of the Balboa Park Learning Institute.

Ricardo Nemirovsky is the principal investigator of the initiative. Paul Siboroski of Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and Kelton are co-principal investigators.