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Collaboration Conversations for Differential Equations (a SUMMIT-P collaboration). Preliminary report.

Virginia Commonwealth University teaches an average of 28 sections of Differential Equations per year. The majority of the students in the course are majors in Engineering or Sciences. Anecdotally, students are not transfer knowledge content from the math course into courses within their majors. In order to improve knowledge retention, we have worked to establish conversations between Mathematics and the partner disciplines of Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and Engineering. Using the “Curriculum Foundations Project: Voices of the Partner Disciplines” report as source of discussion questions, a Fishbowl activity was held with faculty from Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and Engineering. There was good consensus about having the students explore a variety of application problems within each differential equation techniques. To further prioritize content for the course, a follow-up online survey was used to compile a topics wish list from the partner disciplines. This survey had responses from 38 faculty members from 8 different disciplines. Using this information, we are moving forward with three pilot sections of Differential Equations Fall 2017. (Received September 25, 2017)