Kathleen Wong* (kathwong1@yahoo.com) and Devonna Alatorre. Redefining mathematics and mathematicians. Preliminary report.

By making movement towards redefining the way we talk about success in math to students, we are challenging students to see themselves as capable in mathematics and adapting a growth mindset.

Through the Prison Education Project (PEP), in-custody students at the California Rehabilitation Center learn to contribute to mathematics as well as to civic life with classes such as Introduction to College Math and Graph Theory. This Level II all-men’s facility located in the city of Norco in California consists of a high population of African Americans and Hispanics who are refining their attitudes towards math and their futures. On the other hand, teaching at Summit Tahoma High School in San Jose, a Title 1 school with around half of its students being low-income poses its own challenges and fosters innovative techniques through its project-based learning approach.

As math educators, whether in a public school system or in a prison, our goal is to continue to redefine what the term mathematician means for students. We want to make the term more inclusive so that math students are able to associate their success in math, even within a small concept, as them becoming experts in math and thus becoming mathematicians. (Received September 25, 2018)