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The Role of Mathematics Faculty in Supporting Teachers to Increase Retention: A Constructivist Model.

The CMP Supporting Teachers to Increase Retention project goals are to address dimensions of teacher retention by providing a comprehensive induction/support program for teachers of mathematics to increase retention, content knowledge and leadership and to conduct research that adds to the knowledge base on mathematics teacher retention. The Cal Poly SLO/CSU Bakersfield CMP STIR site project's participants are from three high-need districts and take Masters of Arts in Mathematics courses, each including a lab component to familiarize the participants with investigation-based teaching and learning strategies; intensive use of technology to support learning empowers the participants with knowledge of using technology in their own classrooms. Data collected indicate the courses help create bonds between participants and should prove helpful in increasing teacher leadership. Collaboration between math faculty at CSUB and the K-12 community provides opportunities to network during week-long professional development institutes, addressing key pedagogical issues in response to the participants' expressed need. Other opportunities for building collegiality and increasing participants' content knowledge arise during participation in conferences and leadership development retreats. (Received September 16, 2008)