

1086-97-2921 **Imre Tuba*** (ituba@mail.sdsu.edu), San Diego State University, Imperial Valley, 720 Heber Ave, Calexico, CA 92231, and **Jeffrey Burt** (jeffdburt@gmail.com), 1664 Driftwood Dr, El Centro, CA 92243. *Increasing retention of beginner secondary mathematics teachers through professional community building.*

STRIVE, a professional development project funded by the Supporting Teachers in Retention initiative of the California Mathematics Project, ended just recently. Its goal was to reduce the high attrition rate among beginner secondary mathematics teachers in Imperial County of California through better preparing them for their jobs by increasing their pedagogical mathematics content knowledge and improving their leadership skills. While the project did both, it also achieved its primary goal of significantly reducing attrition among participating teachers. What emerged in the process is a strong professional community of mathematics teachers who continue to support each other. We will describe how this professional community was created and how it contributed to increasing the retention of beginner mathematics teachers. (Received September 26, 2012)