The University of Illinois and the Urbana School District have initiated an innovative collaboration whose fundamental goal is to enhance student success in high school mathematics, with a view towards helping them make the transition to college-level mathematics. Our project opens a new avenue for the university’s land-grant mission. It is a true collaboration, it is scalable, and has the potential to expand to involve community colleges and high schools throughout the state. Beginning Fall 2014, Illinois and USD are incorporating ALEKS, an online math assessment and instructional system, into Urbana High School Algebra I classrooms for a two-year pilot period. It will enable UHS teachers to better understand student mathematics capabilities and deficiencies.

We will also cooperate to evaluate the program. The College of Education and the I-STEM office have agreed to work with us on assessment of outcomes. During the second year of the pilot program, we will explore opportunities to expand the pilot program (adding other classes in USD and expanding to additional districts across the state). We envision expanding this collaboration to schools throughout Illinois. In order to do this, we anticipate developing connections with schools at all levels in other districts. (Received September 09, 2014)