

# Math-smart, teacher-savvy

## New graduate program for math teachers puts 'the best of everything all in one package'

Michael Scott, a math teacher at West Carrollton High School, searched 10 years for the right master's degree program for him.

"It was a difficult search," he said.

Scott wanted a program that would make him not only a better teacher but specifically a better math teacher. UD's new master of mathematics education program, he found, does just that.

The new degree, which offered its first two courses this summer, was created by math teachers for math teachers, according to program director Becky Krakowski.

Before the new program, math teachers' options were to get a master's degree in education focusing on pedagogy or to get a master's degree in mathematics focusing on math content, Krakowski said. "In both cases only half of what is needed for mathematics education is covered. Why not focus on mathematics education?"

The UD program focuses on "pedagogical content knowledge," Krakowski said. Students will "deepen their mathematics knowledge while also learning how to transfer that knowledge to their students," she said.

The program, designed especially to accommodate teachers' schedules, can be completed in three summers with minimal course work required during the school year.

Scott started the degree this summer taking courses with Krakowski and Shannon Driskell.

"Dr. Krakowski and Dr. Driskell understand what it means to be a public secondary school teacher and tailored the classes to actually help me improve my teaching. I don't think a master's in mathematics or teacher leadership would help me as much," Scott said.

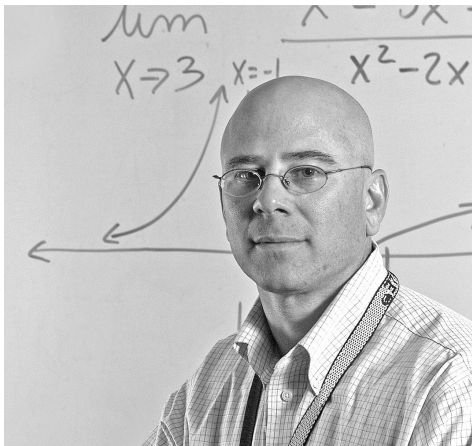
Carol Gudorf, coordinator of learning assistance in mathematics at Edison Community College, also began the program this summer. Like Scott, she had searched for the right master's degree program. She selected UD's program after comparing the courses offered, the scheduling of the classes and the tuition.

"I was getting the best of everything all in one package," by choosing UD, she said.

Recently Gudorf wrote a letter to the president of Edison to tell him about the new program. "I wanted to share with him how beneficial the program is," she said.

Scott shares in Gudorf's enthusiasm about letting math teachers know about the new program. "I have and will continue to recommend any math teacher I meet to do this program of studies," he said.

Ten classes totaling 30 credit hours are required in the degree, with six courses being taught by mathematics faculty and three taught by education faculty. The final capstone course is an action-research project where teachers design and carry out experiments in their own classrooms. Teachers who already have their master's can also enroll in the program to update their knowledge and for certificate and license renewal.



*At UD, West Carrollton teacher Michael Scott found a graduate program that would make him a better mathematician and a better teacher.*

—Jessica Gibson-James