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IU-Trained Math Professor and former Rose Hulman Professor Wants to Fix US Math

Believes Nation's Math Curriculum is Huge Impediment to Achievement

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Dr. Craig Hane is on a mission to change what and how we teach math to our students and workers, and he believes the need for change is an urgent one.

The IU-educated Ph.D. in Algebraic Number Theory has seen and done it all when it comes to math, and he believes the status quo is not only an impediment to economic opportunity, achievement and US competitiveness, but it's a flat-out threat.

"I've taught math from small rural high schools to the top engineering school in the country, and in corporate training programs, and I can tell you we have a huge problem when it comes to math," says Hane, who after selling the corporate training company he founded, set out to pursue his personal mission to develop a better way for today's math students.

Hane established Triad Math and began to act on his mission to improve the US Math situation. The results are now rolling out at kitchen tables where home schoolers are using Triad, as well as on the factory floor at one of the country's largest industrial services companies. The company is also talking with charter schools and briefing adult basic education contractors and workforce leaders. Triad's complete math solution is designed as an alternative to today's standard middle and high school math curriculum.

"My decades of experience have left me convinced that we're doing ourselves real harm as a country, and we're adversely affecting thousands of lives by the way we teach math," says Hane. "We are using a one-size-fits-all approach and dumping a band-aid curriculum on every US student, regardless of its relevance in the real world or how that student learns."

When Hane began to build an alternative math solution, the company name, Triad Math, arose from his philosophy about how students learn as well as how we should be teaching math. The three sides of the Triad philosophy refer to psychology, pedagogy and content.

In brief, Hane believes:

- ✓ Students learn math --and many other challenging topics -- best when they learn in an individual, self-paced manner, absent the peer pressure and classroom-wide instruction, which creates discouragement for many. So, his program is delivered online, and the pace is guided solely by the student's mastery of each component. And, for schools where employing math

teachers is a growing challenge, the Triad Math solution required only “coaches” who can support, motivate and reward achievement, reducing school costs.

- ✓ Building confidence and self-esteem as math is taught is a huge indicator and necessary ingredient to individual student interest, success and future career options.
- ✓ A surprisingly high amount of today’s math curriculum is outdated and obsolete, forcing nearly every US high school student to master challenging tools and topics even though they have no place in today’s workforce and economy.
- ✓ The current curriculum fails to sequence and prioritize content in a sensible alignment, allowing students to also begin to self-select and align what they learn with their interests, attainment and future educational goals.
- ✓ In a climate where new, alternative pathways to graduation and career readiness are beginning to gain acceptance among educators and policymakers, our standard math curriculum often remains the same for all active K-12 students, regardless of their goals or capabilities, creating a huge burden and an obstacle for many who may want to pursue career interests in non-professional, technical, military or skilled trades.
- ✓ Basic math competency is a fundamental building block and prerequisite for workforce development, effective corporate training and human resource development, something often overlooked in the traditional adult education and corporate training arenas.

Now, Triad is working to introduce these views and concerns, and demonstrate its alternative to education leaders, policymakers and workforce stakeholders. Triad has not only developed online math solutions for schools and for the workforce but is now marketing an affordable Supra Computer designed specifically to help STEM and other students master math and use new, cutting edge tools and language, such as Mathematica and Wolfram Language. In addition, Hane has formed a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization to facilitate charitable giving and grants from supportive donors, called Stem Math Made Easy.

But, in his heart, what Dr. Craig Hane seeks more than anything is a healthy debate and some much-needed light cast on the issues around today’s typical approach to math.

“All the data on where we perform against students in other countries confirms what I have seen in the classroom and on the factory floor for decades,” says Hane. “But, what I don’t think gets much attention is how deep this problem cuts. I believe we’re pushing students out of schools and away from careers because we don’t quite see how performance in math and other STEM courses has become a huge psychological barrier for so many of them. And, without huge support systems, students and workers simply don’t overcome these barriers.”

Hane acknowledges the difficulty in achieving state as well as national reform. While debates rage on educational reform, academic standards, charter schools and workforce development, few policymakers have yet tackled the immense challenge of really revisiting the role math content and teaching contributes to our challenges in education, workforce development and even less obvious issues, such as drop out or crime rates.

“It makes sense to me that policymakers, school board members and those with the best intentions will struggle to address this, as very few stakeholders feel comfortable in such an obscure and technical area. However, I believe we must start the debate, and put this critical issue on the table,” Hane continued.



For more on US and Indiana math attainment, see *The Case for Math Curriculum Reform*, prepared by Triad Math. And, learn more about Triad Math's programs and educational resources at:

www.HomeschoolMathematics.com

www.WorkforceMath.com

www.SupraComputer.org

www.STEMMathMadeEasy.com

www.12345math.com

www.TriadMathInc.com

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