

PFF Fellow Profile: Martha Haehl

Academic background prior to entering doctoral studies:

- M.A., mathematics, University of Kansas, 1969
- Work towards PhD, math, University of Kansas, 1969 – 1971 and 1975 - 1976

Degree program / disciplines:

- IPh.D., Curriculum and Instruction, Urban Leadership and Policy Analysis

Courses Taught:

- Community college math classes from arithmetic through differential equations
- Technical math at a community college and at a technical college.
- Computer courses (BASIC, Pascal, and Data Structures)

Teaching Interests: Although I like teaching all levels of math taught at a community college, my focus over the last 10 years has evolved towards teaching developmental (pre-college-level) courses. I like working with adults who struggle with middle-school and high-school level math and the challenge of revising teaching methods and curriculum so that the mathematics taught is grounded in people's life understanding. I also like giving workshops for instructors in teaching methods and curricular change.

Research Interests: I am particular interested in studying learning issues of developmental math students. These issues include the connections between reading and math and the intricacies of whether reading placement scores predict success in developmental math and whether reading strategies are effective in teaching students math. I am also interested in studying the barriers developmental math students face and what motivates them to study math.

Career Aspirations: I am still debating what direction I want to take upon completion of my doctorate. In some capacity I want to continue to do research about teaching and learning math—particularly to developmental math students. This work could be done by continuing in my current position, by teaching in a school of education, or as more of a free agent actively seeking contracts for consulting and research with developmental math programs. I am currently coordinating an NSF planning grant to revise developmental math courses at Penn Valley. This is opening up doors for writing curriculum and consulting.

PFF Expectations: My expectations for PFF are continued interactions with other PFF fellows in seminars and informal discussion and continued work with my PFF mentor on growth goals. My goals for this year are to focus on technology and use Blackboard for posting worksheets, class notes, syllabi, and other class information for easy student access.

Cluster Institution Preferences:

1. Penn Valley Community College
2. William Jewell College
3. Avila
4. University of Kansas