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Su Liang TSSA Winter 2011

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Winter 2011 TSSA Report

Su Liang

Name of Conference Attended: American Mathematical Society and Mathematical American Association Joint Mathematics Meetings on January 6-9 at New Orleans.

Teaching Strategy Studied: I focused on studying teaching strategies that effectively promote students' active learning and stimulate students' learning interest. I attended Mincourse #12 that captured the pictures of college algebra in the real world. The session engaged us in some classroom activities that connected algebra to real life situations such as modeling mathematics functions, interpreting a contour map using knowledge of graph of functions, and using technology (e.g., Microsoft Excel) to make characteristics of functions visualized.

Impact on/How Applied to Current Teaching: I learned using appropriate classroom activities to engage students in learning and connecting mathematics to students' real life. What I learned has impacted my teaching positively. In my classroom instruction, I have constantly connected mathematics content to real life situations that students are familiar with. In my current teaching, I give a lot of opportunities for students to discuss and recognize the connections between a specific mathematics concept and their everyday life situations. For example, in the course "Math for Future Teachers", I use base ten blocks, counting potatoes in bags, and money to help students visualize and understand the concept of Place Value and works effectively based on students' responses in class and in quizzes. I also give students some word problems that situated certain math content such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. These situated math problems help students connect math to their daily life experience and motivate them to engage in problem-solving, eventually help them understand certain math content thoroughly.