



Bridging The Divide

Learning Community of Teachers Works Across Sectors

By Hency Yuen-Eng

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — In the continuing challenge to help students achieve proficiency in math, Samuel Simpson thinks he has found a formula for success.

It comes down to understanding and embracing each student's learning style and creating a nurturing environment by having students work together and teach one another. It also means encouraging students to call, text or email him anytime with questions about homework or concepts covered in class.

Simpson's pre-calculus class at All City High School, an inner-city school in this upstate New York city of 210,000 inhabitants, is the laboratory for this experiment.

As one of the first fellows of the pioneering Community Center for Teaching Excellence (CCTE), the 54-year-old Simpson is trying out innovative approaches to teaching, learning and testing this school year to help students succeed in his math classes and graduate from high school prepared for college. Outcomes of his efforts will be shared with the center, a new initiative aimed at establishing a regional knowledge base of best teaching practices to improve student success across the K-20 continuum.

As schools everywhere come under increased pressure to improve high school graduation rates and college readiness, CCTE brings together area high school teachers and college faculty to collaboratively develop, implement and evaluate high-impact teaching strategies that enhance student engagement and academic achievement.

Based at Monroe Community College and supported by the U.S. Department of



Samuel Simpson is testing new approaches to teaching and learning in his math classroom in Rochester, N.Y.

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