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New Studies Affirm MyMathLab's Positive Impact on Student Success

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Making The Grade, Version 2.0 Reveals That Significant Gains Are Achieved Through Regular, Integrated Use of Online Program

BOSTON, March 14 /PRNewswire/ -- MyMathLab, the innovative online homework and tutorial program from Pearson Higher Education, contributes to dramatic and sustained increases in student math performance, with the greatest benefits emerging from regular, integrated use of the program.

Today, more than 1,600 colleges and universities use MyMathLab or MathXL(R), and since January 2006, more than one million students have enrolled in a MyMathLab or MathXL(R) course. These institutions have experienced increased pass rates, increased retention rates, increased levels of success in subsequent courses, and increased achievement by underserved populations. Across the country, institutions are reporting pass rate increases of 30 to 40 percent and at less cost than traditional courses.

MyMathLab (MML) offers a series of text-specific online courses designed to work with Pearson Addison Wesley and Pearson Prentice Hall textbooks in mathematics and statistics. Self-paced, customizable, deliverable anywhere with Web access, and adaptable to each student's level of knowledge, MyMathLab immerses students in an active learning environment at the time and place most convenient to them, and according to the learning style and pace that best suit them.

Through the use of MyMathLab's automated assessment features, students know immediately if they're on track and if not, how to get back on track; instructors can quickly intervene at the first sign of trouble; and there's no risk of sudden surprises at the end of the semester.

Tightly integrated with the assigned textbook, MyMathLab offers a customizable set of course materials and adaptable instruction tools that allow the institutions to offer the entire program, a portion of the program, or just the homework option. Features include extensive online tutorial exercises, online homework assignments that are graded automatically, personalized study plans for students based on their test or quiz results, and online math tutoring.

Making The Grade Version 2.0: A Report on the Success of MyMathLab in Higher Education Math Instruction, found that instructors and schools experienced the greatest levels of success in "redesigned" environments, or those that incorporate information technology to improve education.

The report contains information on student improvement from a wide range of U.S. colleges, including Georgia State University, the University of Alabama, Wayne State University, DeVry University, the University of Wisconsin-Stout, Quinsigamond Community College, Florence-Darlington Technical College, Montgomery College, and others. Making The Grade Version 2.0 builds on and extends the findings of the initial Making The Grade report, released in Dec. 2005.

An example of MyMathLab's extraordinary success took place at Georgia State University, the second-largest university in the state. Experiencing high drop/fail/withdrawal rates in its lower level math courses, GSU initiated a redesign of college algebra and precalculus. MyMathLab was an integral component of this multiphase process, which showed dramatic results. College algebra pass rates increased 37.5 percent, and fail/withdrawal rates decreased 40.7 percent. Precalculus rates were equally as impressive: pass rates increased 25.5 percent, and fail/withdrawal rates decreased 29.7 percent. This dramatic improvement in results has inspired GSU to restructure its calculus courses to include MyMathLab.

"What's the best method to increase student success? We think we've found it, and it's called MyMathLab," said Margo Alexander, director of GSU's Mathematics Interactive Learning Environment of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In Conroe, Texas, Montgomery College teamed with Pearson to develop a program that uses MyMathLab to deliver assessments based on desired course outcomes. The school saw improved pass rates, higher student success rates in subsequent courses, and an increase in math course enrollments.

"Without MyMathLab -- its superb technical support, the communication it affords us among faculty and between faculty and students, and its remarkable flexibility -- we could not have achieved this level of student or college success," said Maureen Loiacano, mathematics and education department chair at Montgomery. "I know I sound like a commercial for MyMathLab, but that's really the way we all feel about it!"

At the University of Alabama, MyMathLab also helped increase pass rates significantly. For example, by spring 2006, Intermediate Algebra pass rates had risen an average of 20.2 percent from 2000 rates, with the percentage of As and Bs increasing from 36.7 percent to 58.3 percent.

"In our mind, this is a better way to present the material," said Joe Benson, senior associate dean in the University of Alabama's College of Arts and Sciences. "Students learn math by doing math. MyMathLab requires students to do more math -- and thereby achieve greater and deeper learning."

Students are also passionate about MyMathLab's effectiveness. "I was never one to do my homework but with this I had no choice and it was fun," said a student at New York's Onondaga Community College. "I also liked that it had guided solutions for everything, so if I got stuck I was easily pulled out with the help."

"This class completely changed my views on math," said a student at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. "Before this class I hated math and never wanted to do it. After this course I LOVE math and am considering a math minor. I never would have imagined ME teaching and helping others with math."

About the MyLabs

Approximately half of the 4.5 million U.S. college students who use Pearson's Higher Education online products have also registered for a course on one of our MyLab online homework and assessment programs. The growing MyLab offerings include 16 discipline-specific programs that support hundreds of college textbooks. The largest program, MyMathLab, provides insight into the central role technology plays in so many of our product offerings. In addition to strong market share in college math, the MyMathLab programs are supported by a strong research base that documents student performance gains and improved retention, as well as institutional productivity metrics. To review the data and read faculty testimonials to the benefits of this innovative digital capability, please visit http://www.mymathlab.com/success_report.html.

About Pearson Education

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