



Pictured from left, Julie Dudones, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction in Cuyahoga Falls, guest speaker Heather Ciranna and Jason Smith, Interim Associate Principal at Cuyahoga Falls High School.

‘Empowering in Mathematics’ projects continued during 2019-2020

Thanks to a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Compact administrators and teachers took part in a two-day summer workshop led by **Dr. Kim Yoak**, followed by collaboration during the semester and a workshop in early December. The focus of this work was promoting equity, empowerment and deep learning in mathematics.

As part of the summer workshop, collaborative sessions involving elementary to high school math curriculum included guest speakers **Heather Ciranna**, owner/manager of Corner Cup Coffeehouse in Stow; **John Pribonic**, Mayor of Stow; and **John Baranek**, Finance Director of Stow. The three shared insights and experiences about how knowledge of math is crucial in the workplace.

In addition, **Dr. Charles Bowman**, Roosevelt High School math teacher and the Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics, talked about his experiences as a teacher and as an African American man.

During the fall, Dr. Yoak co-taught in seven classes with each teacher and led the first part of a book study of *Mathematical Mindsets* through live video discussions with teachers and principals.

During the December workshop, four business leaders discussed the use of math in their workplaces, and teachers shared changes they made in their classrooms. Speakers included **Jessica Schemrich**, Training and Development Specialist at Western Reserve Hospital in Cuyahoga Falls; **Dennis Loughry**, Director of Business Development for FMD Architects; **Ben Woods**, Strategist for Key Bank and adjunct faculty member at Kent State University in “UX” Design and **Dean Thayer**, retired nuclear engineer.

A second grant from the Jennings Foundation enabled the continuation during spring 2020, with a focus on using spoken language to promote equity, empowerment and

deep learning. Dr. Yoak led one workshop in February, and participants continued their year-long book study of *Mathematical Mindsets* through live video discussions. Dr. Yoak co-taught with many of the teachers in their classrooms and worked with all of the teachers online during remote learning. The grant has been extended through Fall 2020.

Student Learner Success Service shows record of helping students

Approximately 165 students took advantage of the Compact’s Student Learner Success Service, which provides individualized instruction for Career-Technical Education students who need tutoring for academic and career classes, as well as for standardized tests. In addition, Student Learner Success Specialists also help with resumes, credit recovery, Career Passports, Capstone Projects and others.

Intervention specialists **Audrey Bodnar** of Stow-Munroe Falls, **Lisa Emmett** of Cuyahoga Falls and **Sue Yanchar** and **Deb Rutzky** of Roosevelt also help keep parents, school counselors, instructors and administrators informed about the progress of each student.

One student says, “I’m thankful for you helping with my assignments, especially my Work Keys test. I gained confidence with the encouragement and direction that you always give in such a positive way.”

A parent comments, “We appreciate everything you have done for our daughter. She always talks about how much you have helped her.”

Another student says, “I would not have survived high school without you!”

Job Training Coordination program works with Kent State University

Job Training Coordination Program Coordinator **Bryan Harvey** worked with adult service providers, teachers, administrators, employers and families to obtain job placements in the community for participating students. Eleven students received individual jobsite development, coaching and follow-up to match their needs and requests, and the students totaled over 2,000 hours of paid work training experiences.

As part of the community-based school-to-work program, one student worked at Kent City Schools’ bus garage and was employed fulltime at ABC Landscaping. Ten students worked at various sites at Kent State University, including Subway, Eastway Market, Eastway cafeteria, Prentice cafeteria and the library. Two of these students will be returning to the Kent State program.

Three students from Stow-Munroe Falls, two students from Cuyahoga Falls, one student from Woodridge and five students from Roosevelt participated. Four of the students are working with OOD and DD adult services to find meaningful work placements. One student is seeking employment and four students have been accepted into Project SEARCH.