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## **MathNerds Receives Funding for Texas-based Mathematics Mentoring Networks**

MathNerds, Inc. ([www.mathnerds.com](http://www.mathnerds.com)) recently secured \$87,450 of funding through a grant awarded to the Texas State University System from the Meadows Foundation to be used to implement Mathematics Mentoring Networks within Texas at numerous state universities. The grant, totaling \$247,000, includes Lamar University in Beaumont and Texas Mathworks, based at Texas State University in San Marcos. The purpose of the Mathematics Mentoring Networks is to use advanced technology and programming to forward math questions via the internet from public school district students to local university students majoring in math education, also known as pre-service math teachers. Such questions better prepare pre-service teachers by engaging them actively with the students at the curricular level that they will eventually teach. School district students benefit by having an additional resource both during and after school for their questions. Programs are currently in place within Texas at Lamar University and Texas State University.

“It is so important that our future teachers leave their universities confident in their ability to address the real questions that their students will ask in the classroom,” Dr. W. Ted Mahavier, MathNerds co-founder and project investigator, said. “Allowing them to do this via the internet, where they have time to think and respond under the guidance of a team of educators, both prepares them for their careers and provides a much-needed service to the school district students and teachers.”

There are several key people involved in implementing the Texas project. Dr. Paul Dawkins and Dr. Kyehong Kang of Lamar University are lead programmers. Dr. Max Warshauer, Director of Texas Mathworks at Texas State University in San Marcos and Mrs. Hiroko Warshauer, a math education instructor at Texas State University, are putting networks in place for their students. Alexander White, a mathematics educator at Texas State University, is assessing and evaluating the networks.

MathNerds, founded in 1996 by Dr. Valerio De Angelis and Dr. Mahavier, is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to support inquiry-based learning. For more than 10 years, their website has offered its free service of helping anyone with mathematics problems through its network of volunteers. The volunteers give direction and hints, but never give the answers to the problems.

The Dallas-based Meadows Foundation ([www.mfi.org](http://www.mfi.org)) is a private philanthropic institution established in 1948 by Algur H. and Virginia Meadows to benefit the people of Texas. The foundation's mission is to assist the people and institutions of Texas to improve the quality and circumstances of life for themselves and future generations.