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Math, science get boost at Cal State East Bay

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■ \$1.5 million grant will be used to help teaching hopefuls further their education

By Kristofer Noceda

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HAYWARD — Cal State East Bay's efforts to produce more teachers specializing in science and math has received a boost.

The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$1.5 million grant to the university in response to Cal-

ifornia's shortage of highly qualified educators in those subjects.

"Hopefully we are able to recruit those who normally wouldn't go into teaching," said Kathy Hann, a math professor.

Hann helped spearhead efforts to help the university attain the grant.

The goal of the grant is to help develop teachers who are specializing in science, technology, engineering and math.

That way those educators in turn would help better prepare their students for college-level work in those

subjects, which officials said should remedy a decrease in qualified graduates to fill high-technology jobs in the state.

The grant will provide financial aid in the next two years to cover student fees for 16 students working on their teaching credential.

After earning their degrees, educators must work a minimum of four years as a math or science teacher in what are called "high needs"

school districts.

Low-income areas and high teacher turnover rates are factors that can define "high needs" districts.

As part of the grant, those teachers must also take courses for the master's program.

In addition, students will need to attend summer seminars that will be taught by Lawrence Livermore Laboratory scientists and other professionals.

The final seminar will have the students conduct research with one of their lab mentors and share authorship on a paper or journal article.

The Alameda County Office of Education is joining the university and will provide professional development to teachers.

"We're merging our resources more and more because we all have the same goal," said Rachelle DeSte-

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—Kathy Hann,
math professor

fano, director of grant management and development for the county office of education.