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# Chevron makes \$1.5 million math investment

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Cal State East Bay  
president lauds  
programs for a  
'better-prepared  
work force'

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HAYWARD — Cal State East Bay will be able to expand programs designed to help underserved students sharpen their math skills thanks to a \$1.5 million investment from Chevron Corp., officials said Monday.

The university's Mathematics Achievement Academies will be able to help middle and high school students from Richmond, Oakland, Dublin, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore and the Rodeo, Concord and Richmond areas. The programs are aimed at strengthening the math skills of students planning to attend college.

"We are exceptionally pleased to be partnering with Chevron in this critical endeavor," Cal State East Bay President Mo Qayoumi said in a statement. "By providing new opportunities and new pathways for aspiring young students to prepare for college and career success, we're not only helping to create a better-prepared work force, but also stronger communities."

Officials said the investment is funded through Chevron's California Partnership, which focuses on supporting science, technology, engineering and math programs "to provide the skills needed for students to succeed in the global economy and increase college and career readiness."

The academies will be run jointly by Cal State East Bay, the Alameda County Office of Education and the Alameda County Collaborative for Learning and Instruction in Mathematics, or ACCLAIM.

Academies will start this summer with 575 students who will begin a three-year college preparatory program of advanced mathematics, including algebra and geometry. Chevron has committed to sponsoring the program through 2012.

In addition to providing financial support, Chevron employees also will donate time through a mentorship program for students.

"We are now providing direct support to students, which is phenomenal," said Philip Gonsalves, who is heavily involved in the project as a mathematics lecturer at Cal State East Bay, a mathematics coordinator at the Alameda County Office of Education and executive director of ACCLAIM.

"Historically, students who struggle in mathematics often end up with 'more of the same,'" he said. "But it's not about teaching kids how to do math, it's about teaching kids mathematics that make sense."

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