

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WILL JOHNNY EVER LEARN TO ADD?

And How We Can Tell if He Has...

An Extraordinary Conference on Testing in Math Education

Berkeley, Calif. – Top thinkers in math education will debate the very nature of how students learn math and how they're tested at a summit March 7-10 at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) in Berkeley.

Labeled "a vital discussion of mathematics education in the U.S.," the conference comes as the use of standardized math tests is increasing, the significance of testing is escalating for both students and schools, and the controversy grows over the effectiveness of testing standards.

"This will be a vital discussion of mathematics education in the U.S.," said MSRI Director David Eisenbud. "This group of educators, mathematicians, technology leaders and policymakers will help set the agenda for advancement in this area."

The conference will begin Sunday, March 7 with the first workshop addressing growing concerns about student understanding and accountability.

"We expect this conference to improve our knowledge of different ways to assess students' learning in mathematics," said University of Michigan Professor Deborah Ball. "This discussion is crucial given the current public demand for results and evidence."

Civil rights leader and mathematics educator Robert Moses will conclude the conference by leading a discussion on The Algebra Project, an effort that builds on the increasingly evident link between math knowledge and the advancement of civil rights.

"One of the central things we're saying is that the ongoing struggle for citizenship and equality for minority people is now linked to an issue of math and science literacy," said Moses, founder and president of The Algebra Project.

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A sample of conference speakers include the following:

- **Bruce Alberts**, President, National Academy of Sciences; Chair, National Research Council
- **Deborah Ball**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, School of Education, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
- **Robert Moses**, Founder and President, The Algebra Project, Inc.
- **Susan Sclafani**, Counselor to the U.S. Secretary of Education; Assistant Secretary, Office of Vocational and Adult Education
- **Lee Shulman**, President, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

MSRI is a premiere center for research in the mathematical sciences, and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding in 1982.

The conference will be held in MSRI's facility at 17 Gauss Way on the University of California's Berkeley campus.

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