

## Higher Education

# Math teachers to add up

By Jenn Smith  
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WILLIAMSTOWN — A new program in Williamstown is seeking to fill the math gap.

In recent years, there has been a greater thrust toward engaging people in the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

These have been labeled by the federal Department of Higher Education as “high-need” subjects, which subsequently require highly qualified people to instruct them.

Now, The Reading Institute is collaborating with Cambridge College to ready more math teachers.

“There has been a national mathematics advisory panel that has been formed to examine scientific evidence related to the teaching and learning of math. This is how I became very interested in math training for teachers,” said Janet Stratton, director of The Reading Institute Inc.

### Taught locally

Located on Main Street, the nonprofit organization currently provides literacy training for teachers by offering both workshops and graduate-level certification.

Stratton began talking with Dr. Anthony DeMatteo, dean of the School of Education at Cambridge College, which

specializes in higher education for working adults.

The Williamstown site has earned approval from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. DeMatteo estimated that 19 people have already registered for the new courses.

“If you look at the Department of Education’s lists for job availability, the top is special education. The second is for math. Third is for science, particularly biology,” DeMatteo said.

The college has designed a program according to the state standards for instructing math at the elementary, middle and high school levels, and will offer both workshops and a master’s degree program.

### Upcoming courses

The spring schedule includes monthly weekend intensive courses through May, with more courses to be developed for the summer.

Courses are being offered at an introductory rate of \$875. Normally the cost is \$1,200 per course. Financial aid is available for master’s degree candidates.

For more information or to enroll, contact Cambridge College Graduate Admissions Counselor Jay Rivituso at (617) 873-0264 or Janet Stratton at (413) 458-9995 or visit [www.theReadingInstitute.net](http://www.theReadingInstitute.net).

