

Title of Project: Fields Academy: Elementary Educators Program

Year of Competition: 2022-23

Grant amount: \$1500

Project Duration: Single Year

Type of Report: Final

Period Covered: January 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023

Description of Activity:

The Fields Academy: Elementary Educators Program offers online, self-paced modules aimed at pre- and in-service teachers to help them build their skills and confidence in mathematics. Over the past year we have launched three courses: Mathematical Operations (Part 1), Financial Literacy, and Mathematical Modelling. The purpose of these courses is to provide teachers with foundational skills in areas of math taught in the current elementary curriculum.

Assessment of Effectiveness:

Building off of a pilot/beta offering involving focus groups and detailed feedback from early participants, the courses were officially launched for registration in the Spring of 2023. So far we have had over 40 teachers/educators register for the courses and the feedback has been positive. We've also had requests for collaborations based on the courses from other individuals and organizations interested in the program (including requests to participate in two high profile grant applications). The programs have been highlighted in our Fields Notes and will soon be publicized in the quarterly newsletter of the Ontario Association for Math Educators (OAME). We are currently in the process of applying for funding from other organizations based on the current success of the program.

Future Plans (if any):

Based on the success of our current programs we have another course ready to launch in Fall 2023 (Logic and Coding) and are working on three additional courses (Proofs, Operations (Part 2), and Probability and Statistics). We are also launching an advertising campaign in mid-Fall in order to encourage more educators to participate in the courses.

In addition, the courses will be undergoing a detailed program evaluation in Fall/Winter 2023 in order to improve their effectiveness and ensure they are achieving their purpose (improving the math skills and confidence of elementary educators).

Financial:

The funding provided by the CMS was utilized to offset costs associated with supporting a

mathematics graduate student who provided invaluable assistance in the creation of many of the materials for the courses. This student also received training from the Program Coordinator on how to create educational materials for non-mathematical students.

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