### **TEACHING AND LEARNING IN STEM**

**PURSUING INCLUSIVITY AND EXCELLENCE WITH A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH** 





The University of Texas at San Antonio™

Juan B. Gutiérrez, Ph.D. Professor, Chair of Mathematics, UTSA

October 29, 2024

### "I AM AN IMMIGRANT..."

### You have heard this before...

### I will tell you what it means to me.

### The power of higher education lifts communities







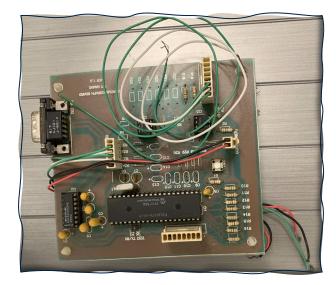










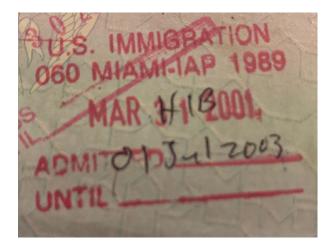




Journey through Equinoctial America 1875-1876 by Edward Francois Andre. Le Tour du Monde 1879



Leftist rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) patrol a roadway near to San Vicente de Caguan, January 1999. REUTERS/Jose Gomez <u>https://www.reuters.com/news/picture/idUSRTX2HS9H/</u> Image use covered by <u>17 U.S.C. § 107 | Limitations on exclusive rights: Fair use</u>



### The power of higher education changes lives

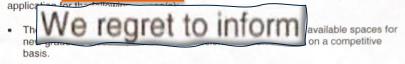


April 10, 2002

Mr. Juan B. Gutierrez 2055 Thomasville Rd #E205 Tallahassee FL 32308-0798

Dear Mr. Gutierrez:

The Admissions Committee for the graduate program in Creative Writing has carefully reviewed your application for graduate admission to Florida State University for the Fall Term, 2002. We regret to inform you that the Committee did not approve your



We appreciate your interest in Florida State University and wish you success in your educational endeavors.

Sincerely,

John Barnhill, Jr. Director of Admissions

JB:aa

#### MFA in Creative Writing



May 6, 2002

Office of Admissions

Mr. Juan B. Gutierrez 2055 Thomasville Rd #E205 Tallahassee FL 32308-0798

Dear Mr. Gutierrez:

On behalf of the Admissions Committee for the graduate program in Applied and Computational Mathematics, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our community of scholars for the Fall Term, 2002. Your acceptance to graduate study at Florida State University is just the beginning of a challenging and enriching experience.

Please read the enclosed information University. Your academic department your graduate program and registration.



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All of us at Florida State University will make every effort to provide you a challenging educational program based on a firm foundation of tradition and excellence.

Sincerely,

John Barnhill, Jr. Director of Admissions

JB:ag:aa

#### PhD in Math

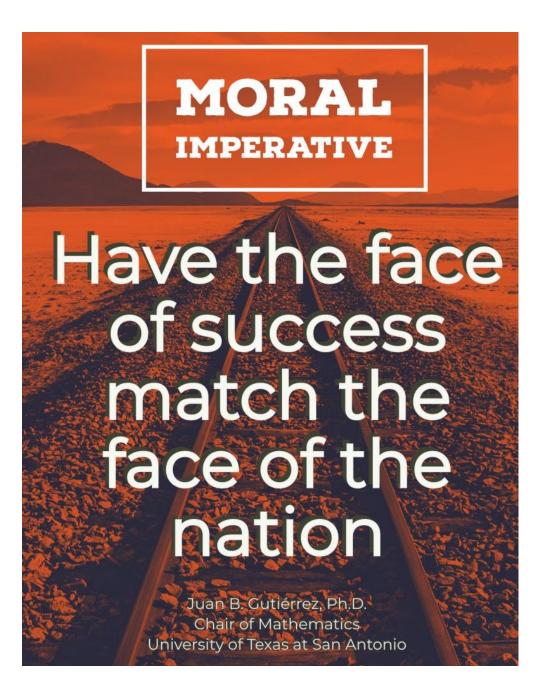
I was a *truly* exceptional graduate student...



... every semester, an exception had to be made to keep me in the program.

Thank you Dr. Case!!!

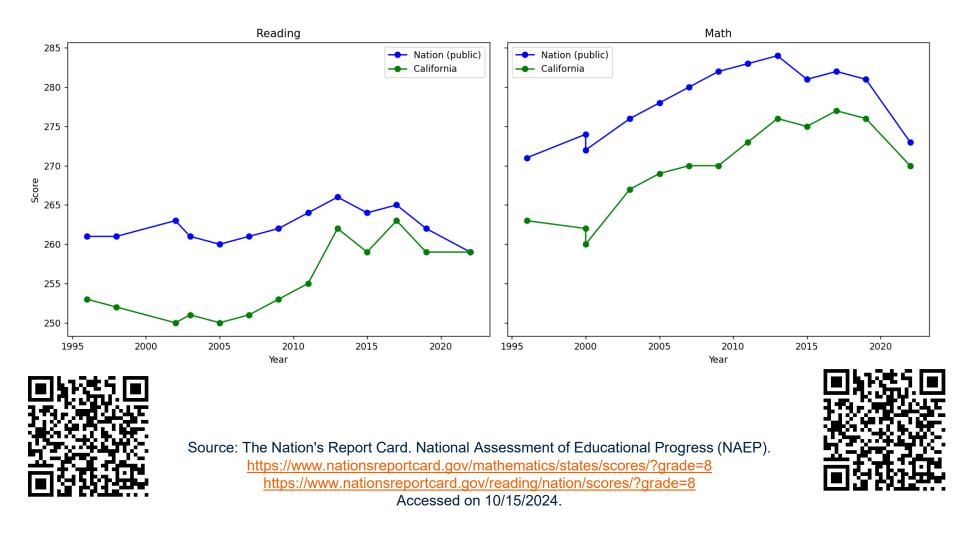
Bettye Anne Case Graduate Associate Chair & Olga Larson Professor of Mathematics Department of Mathematics, Florida State University, (2000s) Ph.D., University of Alabama, USA, 1970



# **FROM K THROUGH 20+**

#### Since 2013, there has been a national decline in math proficiency. Reading is holding up. *«English is important, but math is importanter»*

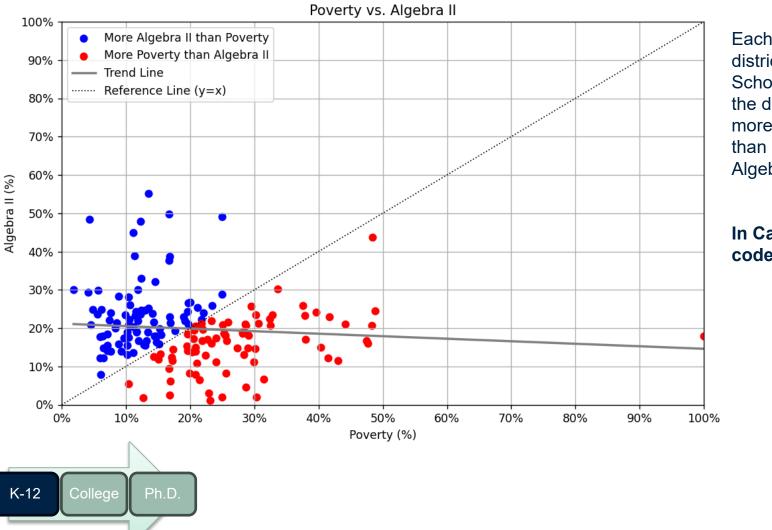
Yearly Data: 8th Grade Reading and Math (Nation vs. California)



# KEY POINT: The US is facing a learning cliff

The COVID-19 pandemic and other social dynamics have created a loss of learning that has not stopped. This will percolate to higher education for years to come.

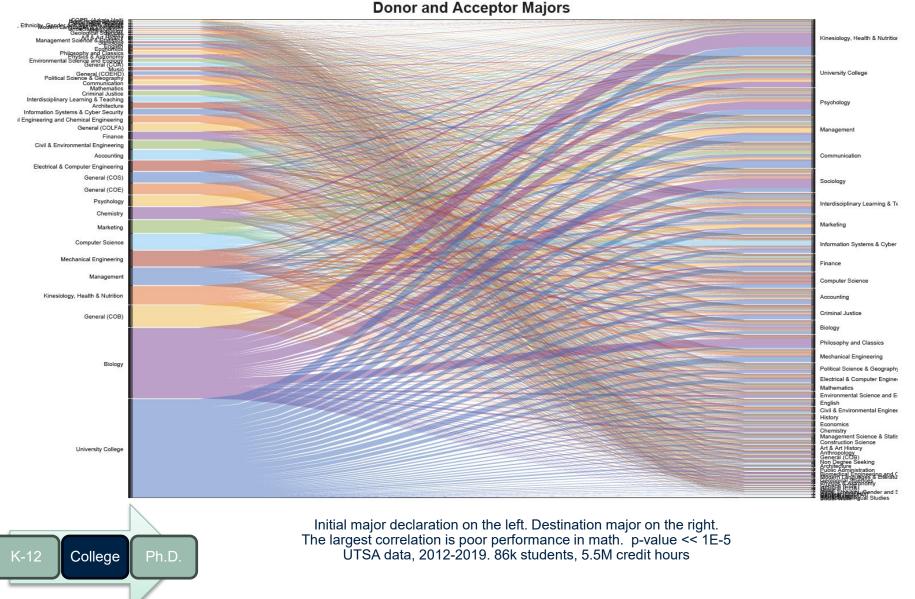
### Poverty is a strong predictor of absence of algebra II in high school. Algebra II is strongly correlated with success in college.



Each dot is a school district in California. School districts below the dotted line have more kids in poverty than kids taking Algebra II.

In California, postal code is destiny.

# Poor performance in a 1<sup>st</sup> year math course is strongly correlated with abandoning STEM



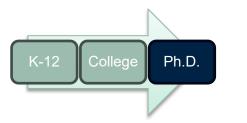
### Doctoral Degrees in the US: Biases in Domain Expertise by Race/Ethnicity

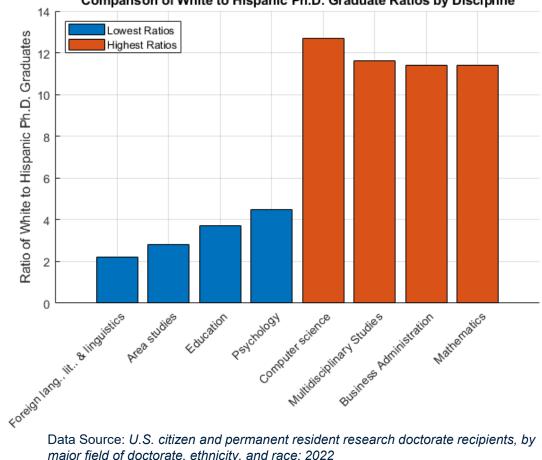
### Smallest ratios White/Hispanic Ph.D.

- 1. Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics (2.2)
- 2. Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies (2.8)
- 3. Education (3.7)
- 4. Psychology (4.5)

#### **Highest ratios White/Hispanic**

- 1. Computer science (12.7)
- 2. Multidisciplinary Studies (11.6)
- 3. Business Administration (11.4)
- 4. Mathematics (11.4)

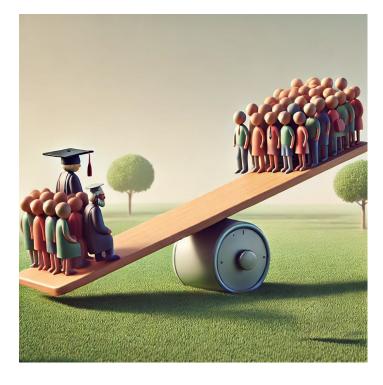




Comparison of White to Hispanic Ph.D. Graduate Ratios by Discipline

*major field of doctorate, ethnicity, and race: 2022* Survey of Earned Doctorates. National Science Foundation. <u>nsf24300-tab003-004</u>

# **KEY POINTS: Who gets to be a Scientist?**



Politics is simply applied ethics with a budget.

Scientists have a disproportionate influence in society for they influence valuation of societal investments.

Groups excluded from this realm do not get to exert this influence.

# KEY POINTS: Closing the Door to Education is the Shortest Path for Exclusion

In a world of racism without racists, centuries-old processes generate exclusionary dynamics that elevate the top at the expense of the socioeconomic base.

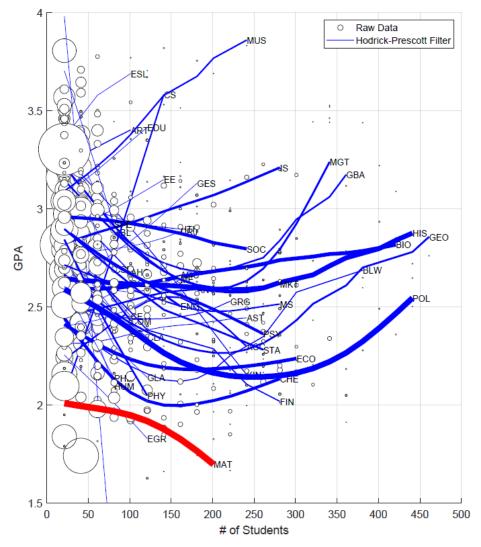
# **METHODS TO QUANTIFY EQUITY**

### **Class size has a variable influence on outcomes**

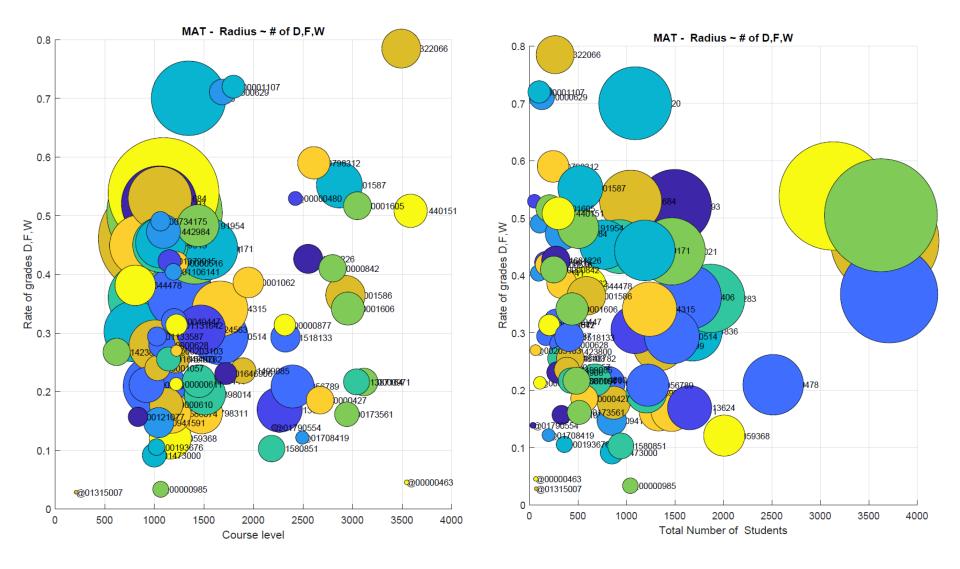
MAT is the subject most affected by class size at UTSA.

Line width proportional to number of students.

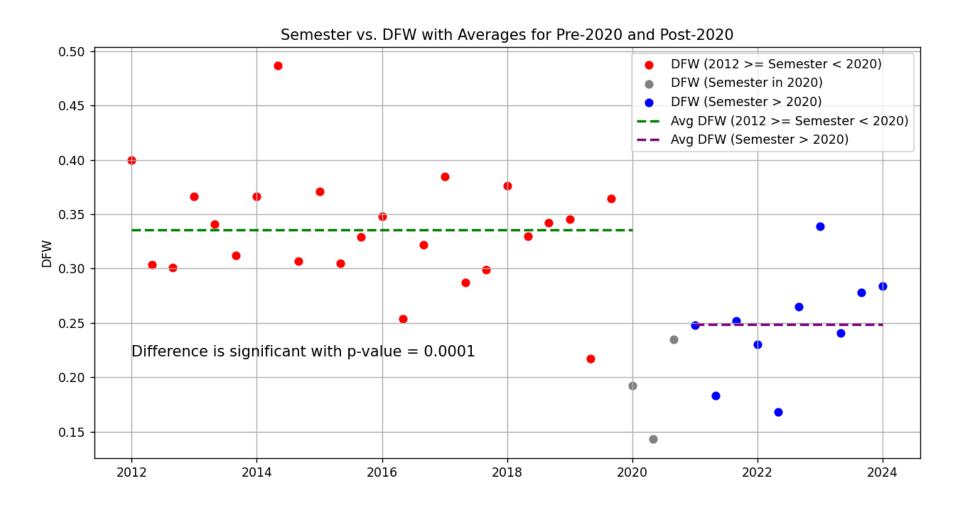
Allocation of limited instructional resources , i.e. TAs, peer-tutors, etc. can be done optimally. Get the largest impact for every dollar spent.



### Grade & faculty analysis inform optimal points of control.



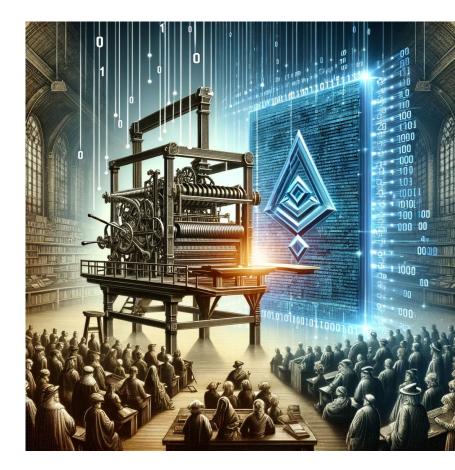
Course coordination and vertical & horizontal alignment of curricula resulted in significant improvements in student performance. Data for math.



# HOW TO MOVE FORWARD TODAY... WITH A.I.

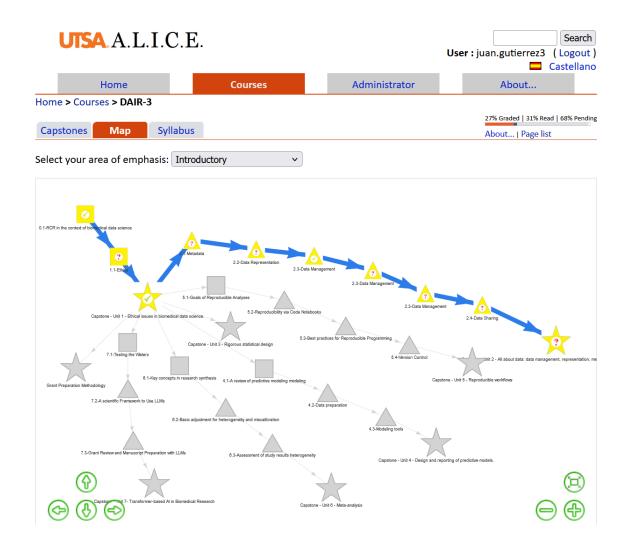
# We are living through a Guttenberg moment.

2023 will be taught to our grandchildren as the year when generative A.I. went mainstream.



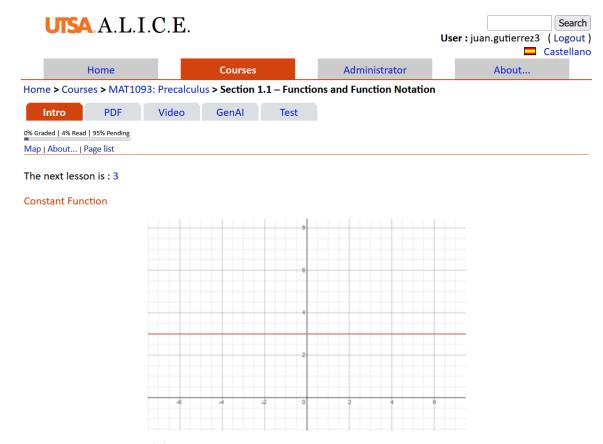
### A.I. has changed instruction overnight

- Students are using AI. When they are not trained in AI use, they delegate reasoning instead of enhancing it.
- Past assessment methods are ineffective.
- A.I. offers an opportunity to improve learning and assess students and classrooms in real time.



### **Adaptive Learning:**

It is now possible to create personalized paths that respond to student needs, as opposed to teaching all to everyone at the same pace.

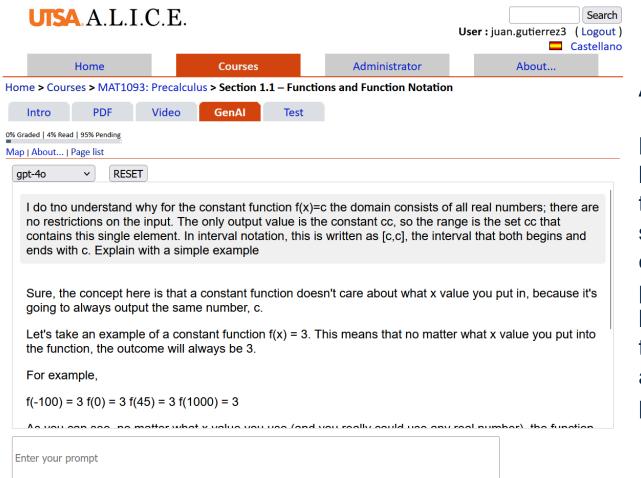


#### **Adaptive Learning:**

By capturing student learning outcomes at the lesson level per student, personalized content can be deployed in real time.

For the constant function f(x) = c the domain consists of all real numbers; there are no restrictions on the input. The only output value is the constant c, so the range is the set c that contains this single element. In interval notation, this is written as [c, c], the interval that both begins and ends with c.

Domain:  $(-\infty,\infty)$ 



#### A.I.-assisted learning

By capturing student learning outcomes at the lesson level per student, A.I. agents can be personalized per student per lesson... hundreds of thousands of A.I. agents per institution per year

Send

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### Al-assisted assessment – in real time

Students can obtain immediate A.I.-driven feedback.

Instructors can assess students with respect to the personalized syllabus.

Instructors can assess performance of a class with respect to a lesson and in general.

### Discussion

- Students carry invisible burdens. A helping hand offered to a single student can change the trajectory of communities.
   Toward compassionate student success...
- There are critical subjects central to student success in all areas.
  Toward quantitative analysis of student success...
- Equity in critical subjects could introduce diversity in the successful layer of society.
   Toward equity-based interventions...
- 4. A.I. cannot be ignored. It must be embraced.Toward a new theory and practice of pedagogy...

## **Thanks for you attention!**

Juan B. Gutiérrez, Ph.D. juan.gutierrez3@utsa.edu

