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W. Ted Mahavier* (ted.mahavier@lamar.edu), Dept. of Math, Lamar University, PO Box 10047, Beaumont, TX 77710. *Connect your preservice teachers to real, live middle school students using a free (grant supported) MathNerds Mentoring Network.* Preliminary report.

MathNerds Mentoring Networks are a free (grant supported) service using web-based technology to allow middle school students to ask questions of preservice teachers in university courses. Such collaboration benefits both the school district students and the preservice teachers. Because the questions they receive are from real, live students, preservice teachers can begin to develop a talent for answering questions using best practices, where sometimes the best response is not the solution, but hints or guidance that enable the student to answer the question. Exposure to the students they expect to teach gives the preservice teachers an idea of the level of skills, curricular level and thought processes of these students. School district students benefit by receiving exposure to universities early in their schooling and by receiving help (but not answers) on homework and class assignments. University faculty are able to add a component to their class that provides out reach to local schools and additional training in writing and communicating mathematics. (Received September 19, 2007)