

1163-97-1349

Francesca Bernardi* (fbernardi@wpi.edu) and **Katrina Morgan** (katrina.morgan@northwestern.edu). *Merging Mathematics and Media to Increase Representation and Build Community.*

Students from underrepresented groups face numerous barriers of entry in STEM. Fostering a community of young people who are interested in Mathematics, but do not necessarily see themselves as potential Mathematicians, can help them feel welcome in the field and build their confidence. Outreach programs aligning STEM communication with Mathematics can be a point of entry for such students, who often find these events to be less intimidating than those focused exclusively on technical activities.

Incorporating communication aspects in outreach serves several purposes: It encourages the participation of non-traditional STEM students by building a community of young people passionate about Mathematics and communicating it to the public; it helps educate these students to become better Mathematicians, teaching them communication skills as well as challenging Math topics; and it shows them the importance of focusing on both aspects.

We report experiences from Girls Talk Math, a free Math and media camp for female and gender non-conforming high school students founded in 2016 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Girls Talk Math is now hosted on four major US campuses and in 2020 was held virtually as a joint effort with campers from all four institutions. (Received September 15, 2020)