

Dear Dr. Beezer,

I am writing to express my interest in participating in the UTMOST Project. I am currently a new faculty member at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). As part of this project, I could teach our Modern Algebra 1 course (MATH410), which is offered every fall semester. MATH410 is the first course in a two semester sequence that covers groups, rings, and fields. This course is required for mathematics majors and typically has an enrollment of 35. As another option, I could also teach one of our two courses on Linear Algebra, but it is not clear that either would be an appropriate match for the materials. The first course is a combined Differential Equations and Linear Algebra course (offered every fall) and the second course is an Advanced Linear Algebra course (offered every spring) that starts with vector spaces.

As a new faculty member, I have not taught any of these courses before. I have six semesters of teaching experience as a graduate student and one semester of teaching experience as a faculty member, all in lower-division courses. I have used some mathematical software in courses, including MyMathLab in a College Algebra course and Mathematica in a Calculus 2 course. I'm excited to incorporate the use of mathematical software more in my future courses. In particular, I plan to use Overleaf in my Foundations course and Sage in my Number Theory course next semester. I have used Matlab and Sage in limited ways in my own research, so I see a lot of value in having students use these programs. Before reading this proposal, I was unfamiliar with SageMathCloud, but I am looking into it for my teaching now that I know about.

CSUMB is a small public university in central California, serving 6646 undergraduate students and 284 graduate students. We are a Hispanic-serving institution, with a student body that is 37% Latino. More broadly, we serve a variety of under-represented populations – 55% of our students are first generation college students, 46% are from under-represented minority groups, and 35% are from low-income families. Almost all (96%) of our students come from California, with 34% coming from the local tri-county area. CSUMB was established as a university in 1994 with a focus on innovative teaching and serving the local region. The Department of Mathematics & Statistics offers a major in mathematics and minors in mathematics and statistics. We currently have 112 mathematics majors, the majority of whom are seeking a mathematics teaching credential.

My department is very supportive of my potential participation in this project. I have included a letter of support from my department chair, Dr. Hongde Hu. I hope to hear from you in the event that your grant is funded.

Sincerely,

Alison Lynch
Assistant Professor of Mathematics
California State University, Monterey Bay



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Dear Professor Mesa,

I am pleased to provide my enthusiastic support for Dr. Alison Lynch's participation for the UTMOST Project. The goals of the UTMOST Project are an excellent fit with the mission of the Mathematics and Statistics Department, as it will enable us to use various innovative tools in the instruction of undergraduate mathematics courses at California State University-Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

The Mathematics and Statistics Department at CSUMB is aware of the program activities and requirements, and that every effort will be made to schedule the necessary courses in the academic years 2017-18 and 2018-2019.

Sincerely,

Hongde Hu,
Chair, Mathematics and Statistics Department