

Award given to study math teaching

By Stephanie Holland
Emerald Reporter

Two University professors have received a three-year grant of \$840,000 to study more effective methods of teaching mathematics in kindergarten and elementary schools.

The U.S. Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services awarded the grant to Douglas Carnine, a teacher education professor, and Ed Kameenui, a teacher education assistant professor.

Carnine, project director, said the research is needed to improve the deficient math performance levels of American students compared to students in other countries.

"One of the big problems is we do a lot of things superficially," he said.

United States teachers base their teaching methods on a "spiral curriculum," Carnine said.

With this type of curriculum, students are taught portions of a subject each year, rather than learning everything at once. Teachers progress to other subjects, even if all the students do not know the material.

The theory behind this technique, Carnine said, is that students who don't catch on to fractions, for instance, can practice them again during the next school year.

While this sounds good theoretically, Carnine said, in practice this hinders students

who never completely understand a subject by continually putting off their problems to future years.

The nationwide research will include analyzing current math curriculum materials and conducting workshops for teachers, administrators and public schools.

The researchers will also contact textbook publishers and math professors to try to implement better teaching methods. Their research will focus on kindergarten and grades 1-8.

Carnine said research shows most U.S. students are confident with their math skills although their performance levels are extremely poor.

"The average student in Japan performs as well as the top five percent of the students in the United States," he said. "The math education of U.S. students must be changed and improved."

Carnine has worked at the University since 1971. In 1978 he became the director of the national Direct Instruction Follow Through Model research project.

Since 1979 he has been the area education coordinator for the mildly handicapped in the Division of Special Education and Developmental Disabilities.

Kameenui earned his doctoral degree from the University in 1980. He worked as a research assistant for the federal government for two years before joining the University in 1988.

Constitution Court hearing tonight

MEETINGS

ASUO Constitution Court will hold a hearing tonight at 6:30 in EMU Century Room D.

SPEAKERS AND LECTURES

State Sen. Grattan Kerans will give a presentation on reducing field burning Tuesday.

of Eugene/Springfield planning information is available from Tim Carlson at 344-8255. Workshops, healing circles, speakers and more are planned.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day

before publication. Et als run the day of the event unless the event occurs before noon.

Please submit Et als the day before they are to run only. Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted.

Et als

March 20, at the Sierra Club Meeting at the Amazon Community Meeting. The speech will be at 7:30 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

MCAT forms for pre-med students are available in Room 164 Oregon Hall. The deadline is March 30.

Homeless Outreach Program

Sign

Continued from Page 3

indispensable. Western Oregon (State College) has a solid sign language offering at Monmouth."

But ASL Advocates member Lynn Rosentrater disagreed. "Although Monmouth has an excellent program, students shouldn't have to change schools to take a class," Rosentrater said. "If you want to study French, you shouldn't have to travel to France. U of O offers French classes. U of O should also offer sign classes."

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