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# A Letter from the President July 2020

*NOSS exists to assist education professionals  
in making a positive difference in the lives of students.*

Dear NOSS Members,

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fall semester, we are in one of the biggest experiments in higher education – teaching mostly online because the universities or community colleges are limiting students on campus. Few of us have experienced this type of environment, and as we prepare to welcome students this fall, there is a fear that this will be a terrible disaster. But will it, though?

I challenge you to view this as an **opportunity**. This could be our chance to teach in a new way, to change how we interact with students, and find new ways to help students learn.

I challenge you to have a **growth mindset**, thriving on the challenges this semester will bring and seeing them as a springboard for stretching your abilities.

For us, student success is at the heart of all decisions we make regarding courses, programs, and policies. Student success can be defined as the completion of a course, degree, or certificate program. However, it can be defined in a much broader sense for students. In the circumstances we face now, success can mean being able to log into the school's LMS because the Wi-Fi is working, or it can mean being able to get time on the computer because there is only one in the house and the kids need it to do their homework.

As we go forth, I ask that we reflect on what student success means this fall. Perhaps it means something different. Perhaps this fall, we define success for ourselves.

Denise Lujan,  
President, NOSS

## [Partnership with AMATYC](#)

As I mentioned in June, NOSS is partnering with AMATYC to provide a FREE Webinar. The Webinar will be given by Julie Phelps, Nancy Sattler, Annette Cook, and myself.

**DATE:** August 19, 2020

**TIME:** 2:00 pm EST

**Title:** Implementation of the Common Vision through the Eyes of the Teaching Practitioner.

**Abstract:**

"The status quo is unacceptable." This is the running theme of "A Common Vision

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undergraduate programs in the mathematical sciences. After a brief history of the National Math Summit and overview of the *Common Vision* project, this Webinar will focus on two of the five recommendations of the *Common Vision*: the scale up the use of evidence-based pedagogical methods, and finding ways to remove barriers facing students at critical transition points (e.g., placement, transfer). We will explore the responsibilities of institutions, departments, faculty, and students that allow the mathematics practitioners to collectively change the 'status quo' unacceptable practices.

The National Math Summit will be held as the pre-conference to NOSS 2021 in Las Vegas. The cost is \$125, visit [thenoss.org](http://thenoss.org) to register.

## [2021 Conference Update](#)



We are still moving forward with the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual NOSS conference in Las Vegas. Working with the Westgate Hotel and the city of Las Vegas, we will carefully monitor the COVID-19 health concerns to ensure the safety of our members.

*Proposals and Registration are open for NOSS 2021.  
Go to [thenoss.org](http://thenoss.org) to submit your proposal and register.*

Join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> National Math Summit at the NOSS Conference in Las Vegas.

Sponsored by NOSS, AMATYC, the Dana Center, Carnegie Math Pathways, and Mathematical Association of America.

Upcoming 4th National Mathematics Summit  
February 23-24, 2021  
Westgate Resort and Casino,  
Las Vegas, NV

Planning Leadership Team  
Annette Cook, Paul Nolting, Julie Phelps and Nancy Sattler

Steering Committee  
Christina Cobb and Denise Lujan (NOSS)  
Rochelle Beatty, Kathryn Van Wagoner, and Laura Watkins (AMATYC)  
Connie Richardson and Paula Talley (Charles A. Dana Center)  
Ann Edwards (Carnegie Math Pathways/WestEd)  
April Strom (MAA)

**NOSS**  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

**AMATYC**

The University of Texas at Austin  
Charles A. Dana Center

CARNEGIE MATH  
PATHWAYS  
WestEd

**MAA**  
MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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**Christina Cobb**, one of the Math Network co-chairs, will be presenting on  
**Active Learning.**

**Glynis Mullins**, NOSS Secretary, will be presenting  
**Success for Adult Students is on the Rise: the Transformation of Math  
Anxiety.**

**Tina Ragsdale & Ben Hotel** will be presenting  
**Harmonizing Pathways, co-requisite Mathematics Courses, and Success  
Coaches  
To create a Symphony of Student Success.**

**Lori Austin** will be presenting on  
**Mathematics Placement Tests: Are they Really Necessary for College  
Success?**

**Annie Childers** will be presenting on  
**Co-Requisite mathematics Remediation: Is it working?  
Data Results from a Four Year Public Institution.**

**Denise Lujan**, President of NOSS, will be presenting on  
**How to Administratively Handle Change.**

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NOSS, P.O. Box 963, Northport, AL 35476

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