

Dr. Tom Kloster

Ph. D. Educational Mathematics

- > Owner/Operator Metro-Math Tutoring Services
- > College Mathematics Professor Cosumnes River College

BIOS

Picture of Tom taken in March 2016



HIGHLIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner/Operator since March 2016

Metro-Math Tutoring Services

College Mathematics Professor

- > Butte College in Oroville, California
- > Yuba College in Marysville, California
- > American River College in Sacramento, California
- > Cosumnes River College in Sacramento, California

HIGHLIGHTS OF EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Pure Mathematics awarded in 1991

University of California at Berkeley

Advanced Degrees

- > Master of Arts in Pure Mathematics from University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, California awarded in 1994
- > Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Mathematics from University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado awarded in 1999.

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

A COLLEGE PROFESSOR

I moved to Chico in 2006 and taught college mathematics courses continuously for the last ten years. My approach to successfully accommodating diverse groups of students at a community college campus in California is to be clear, welcoming and flexible. The way in which I structure my courses as well as the way that I answer

student questions is always especially clear and simple. I use language that is easy to understand, and I stay to the point. In my experience dealing with students from diverse populations, what is most important to them is that I am clear when I give them advice, when I explain what is required in their courses, or go over grade information with them. What's most important to me as a professor is that I help student's empower themselves to help themselves, as they become independent learners. My lessons are well planned. I make time for student questions at the start of each class following a mini-quiz which I use to take attendance. I check for comprehension after explaining a given homework question, and I remind students to take notes when I show the solution to the mini-quiz. I proceed to outline the title and topics of the lesson and to write up my specific examples. I call students by name as I ask questions like, "What property justifies this last step?" I welcome and thank students for contributing to open discussion. I am clear about class protocol, grading policies and attendance policy in my syllabus. I call students by name from the first week of class, so I can more effectively talk with students who are forgetting the rules. Students in my classes all benefit from my choice of examples and the way in which I welcome attendance and participation. Over the years I find that the same strategies work for all students which work best for students who may have special needs. Lastly, I am flexible to meet the needs of certain students who may need extra help from me outside of class. I enjoy working with diverse groups of students, and I pride myself on the fact that I have ten years of experience continuously meeting the needs of a diverse student body at community college campuses. I believe my teaching methods enable me to assess student learning objectives in the classroom, because I remain in constant communication with students as I progress through each and every well planned lesson. My education, training and experience enable me to be a consistently effective instructor with diverse student populations. My flexibility and ongoing professional development improvements guarantee excellence in my encounters with students, faculty and staff.

A COLLEGE PROFESSOR AND A BUSINESS OWNER

In 2016, I recently moved from Chico to Sacramento and started teaching full-time for Cosumnes River College. I also started Metro-Math Tutoring Services from a home office that I set up in the apartments not far from the Sacramento zoo. My new job at CRC is going great. I even took my prealgebra students to the zoo. It was a rainy day at the zoo, but we took great pictures and had fun with the kids that came along. It was a really great trip, and I that's how I actually made some of my first friends in Sacramento. Our mission is to make quality mathematics in-home tutoring available to every high school and middle school student in the state of California. Starting a business was much easier than I thought it would be. Actually, I taught college math on and off since I graduated from UNC in 1999. When I wasn't teaching I would tutor math. I started a smaller version of Metro-

Math Tutoring Services in 1998 out of a basement in Orinda. I called that business Dr. K. Math Clinic. Since then and over the years, my mind would wonder back and I would often remember my customers. I was always so proud of how much we achieved for their schoolers. I was also proud of the parents of the schoolers who could afford tutoring services and were willing to give the tutoring as a gift to their children. I was touched by how important it was that these parents wanted to help their children attain their own goals. These kids really are going to need to make somewhere near as much as their parents in order to be happy in life! I realized how much I enjoyed working with customers in their homes, and I decided to take on the larger project of such business operations of Metro-Math Tutoring Services to employ tutors statewide to do in-home tutoring. The philosophy of "giving the gift of math" throughout the state is what drives me on...like a guiding light!