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TEEN FORUM ADDS IT UP

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ROUTE 66 RENDEZVOUS

Math part of solution

Workshop emphasizes need for education

By **Debbie Pfeiffer Trunnell** Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — A sheriff's deputy who has seen too many young men squander their potential, along with other area professionals, explained the importance of math in everyday life to teens gathered Friday at San Bernardino Valley College.

About 200 students listened as the often passionate speakers shared their own experiences and offered advice at the first Empowering Men in Mathematics Field Day, held in the liberal arts building.

"We felt that this is a way we could really make a difference in the educational journey of our male students," said Haragewen Kinde, dean of the math department at the college.

Participating high schools included Colton, Middle College, Pacific, Rialto and San Geronio.

The panelists were role models from all walks of life including Kermit Alexander, a former professional football player; Deputy Zach Beckum with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; Shelton Charles, a post-doctoral researcher at Loma

Linda University; Dr. Anthony Fenison, an orthopedic surgeon; Bill Lomax, senior portfolio manager for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians; and Monte Perez, president of the Riverside Community College Moreno Valley campus.

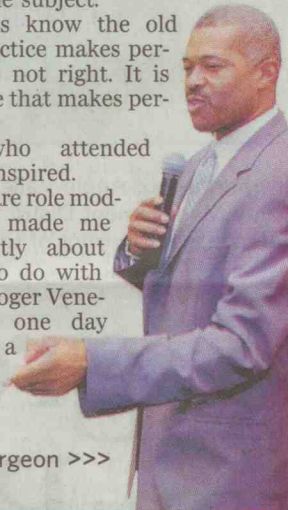
"One way to truly understand math is not to regard it as hard but new," said Fenison.

Alexander said it takes discipline and practice to learn the subject.

"Many of us know the old axiom that practice makes perfect, but that's not right. It is perfect practice that makes perfect," he said.

Students who attended walked away inspired.

"These men are role models, and they made me think differently about what I want to do with my life," said Roger Venegas, 17, who one day hopes to be a fifth-grade teacher.



DR. ANTHONY FENISON, orthopedic surgeon >>>

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