



<http://tle.brookscole.com>

**TLEader:**

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**School:**

Riverside Community College, Moreno Valley  
<http://www.rccd.cc.ca.us/main.htm>

**About Riverside Community College, Moreno Valley:**

Riverside Community College takes the commitment to students seriously, making it central to their mission to be "a leader among community colleges" by emphasizing student-centeredness and teaching excellence. Riverside CC encourages their instructors to make their courses "creative, stimulating and challenging" so that their students get the best experience possible. Riverside CC is part of a community college district that serves Western Riverside County in Southern California from three campuses. The Moreno Valley campus enrolls approximately 6,600 students per semester and offers a wide variety of general education courses leading to associate's degrees in arts and science as well as professional certificates.

**Hybrid Courses Fuse Technology and Traditional Lectures for the Best of Both**

The instructors at Riverside Community College took an active approach when faced with a developmental math program that needed to be revamped. The faculty at the college won a Pew grant to redesign their Elementary Math course to make it more cost effective and better at remediating their students. The group decided that the hybrid approach, a mix of in-class lectures and online teaching using interactive math courseware, was the ideal option. The Riverside CC Math Department also designed a series of math study skills workshops held in conjunction with the hybrid course to provide a comprehensive approach to developmental education.

Sheila Pisa, an Associate Professor at Riverside CC, was an enthusiastic member of the team that redesigned the developmental math courses for the department. She expects a similarly active and engaged attitude from the students in her hybrid Intermediate Algebra course. Students are required to keep up with the course in their Tussy/Gustafson textbooks and spend at least three hours a week in the mathematics lab working online with The Learning Equation (TLE) Labs, a series of 15 TLE lessons chosen to complement the topics in the course.

Pisa chose to use the TLE Labs because they are a "really good way for students to learn." She finds that the hybrid structure of the course requires her students to be more "proactive and responsible." The discovery approach of TLE works well with her own philosophy of encouraging her students to get involved in their own learning. In her opinion, the all-lecture structure of a traditional math course can be too passive. The hybrid format gives her students the best of traditional courses and the innovation possible with the integration of courseware technology. Pisa's students get the in-class instruction they need combined with the additional opportunities for active learning and practice possible in the TLE Labs. This innovative combination gives Pisa's students the best platform to successfully master developmental math.