Post-Brush Up Compass Placement Test scores indicate that in 2010 there were improvements to nearly all the students’ raw scores, and that nearly 50 percent of students advanced at least one course level. Of the 19 students who retested, 18 improved their raw score. Of those 18, four improved by one course level, two improved by two course levels, two improved by three course levels, and one improved by five course levels.
The MyMathTest-enabled Brush Up Sessions successfully provided students with a safe way to address their fears and concerns around math. By combining online and in-person support, the program was able to address students in the manner in which this generation most effectively learns—and retains—information.

Peer tutors noticed more participation by students in small-group settings—in which small groups of students sat facing each other—versus in larger classroom settings in which students sat at rows of tables facing forward.

By retesting into higher-level math courses, students save both time and money. For example, tuition for the precollege mathematics course during 2010–11 academic year is $528; tuition for Introduction to Algebra and subsequent math courses is $261. A student advancing from precollege mathematics to a higher-level math course saves $267.

Most important, the Brush Up Sessions with MyMathTest worked.

• “What helped me to improve my score was the [MyMathTest] study plan. It helped me to refresh my brain.”
• “[MyMathTest] helped me out a lot when I had problems.”
• “[MyMathTest] taught me to understand the problems better.”

KCC looks forward to continuing the summer program—and its use of MyMathTest—in an effort to enable students to better bridge the transition from high school to college. Possible changes to next summer’s program include reducing the cost of the course to $10.

Because MyMathTest is so user-friendly, students had few questions about the program itself. Students and peer tutors were able to spend class time productively addressing math concerns.

Sheldon Tawata, Coordinator
Kapi'olani Community College

Figure 1 shows the combined student gains for summers 2010 and 2011.

What’s more, of those 2010 summer students who improved one or more course levels, a full 50 percent successfully passed their subsequent course.

The Student Experience

Conclusions

Figure 1. Comparison of Course-Level Improvement after Brush Up Sessions and Retesting, Summers 2009 and 2010 (n = 56)