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News Release

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Students graduate from summer academy aimed at boosting math, reading skills

About 1,000 students, parents and friends will celebrate the end of a five-week summer program designed to increase math and reading skills with a special graduation ceremony on Sunday, July 19 at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS).

The College Prep Math and Reading Academy held at Sacramento State, will graduate about 300 students from nine Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) elementary schools. The academy is in its 11th year under the supervision of Prof. Hazel Mahone, Ed.D., a faculty member in the university's College of Education. Students focused on math and reading while being exposed to a college campus, many for the first time, Mahone said.

"We want to catch these kids up on their skills before they get to middle and high school," Mahone said. "Many of them, and many of their parents, have never stepped foot on a college campus before this program." All of the participating students scored at basic or below on the state's standardized tests.

The classroom portion of the program finished on Thursday. The students, staff and parents will celebrate on Sunday with a pizza lunch and graduation exercise in the University Union Ballroom at Sacramento State. The lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. The ceremony starts at 12:30 p.m.

Among the confirmed guests are SCUSD Board of Education First Vice President Ellyne Bell, Second Vice President Patrick Kennedy and the dean of the College of Education, Vanessa Sheared, Ed.D.