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# Federal grant to help bolster math, science training at VU

February 07, 2013 6:00 pm • [Phil Wieland phil.wieland@nwi.com, \(219\) 548-4352](#)

VALPARAISO | Valparaiso University received a \$279,586 grant from the federal National Science Foundation to support its science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs.

The grant was announced Thursday by Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Merrillville, who said, "We must invest in a well-trained workforce to protect the jobs of today and create the jobs of tomorrow. STEM workers will attract new businesses to our region and help make our local industries more efficient."

The funds will support the Valparaiso Experience in Research by Undergraduate Mathematicians program, in which undergraduates are selected each year to work for nine weeks on open problems in applied and theoretical mathematics. The participants investigate questions of interest to the broader mathematical community.

Lara Pudwell, associate professor in the VU Mathematics and Computer Science Department, said, "Over the course of the summer, they will hone research and communication skills that help them prepare for graduate school in the mathematical sciences and future careers in STEM disciplines."

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