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Fort Thomas resident teaches teachers in Singapore

BY AMANDA JOERING | COMMUNITY RECORDER STAFF WRITER

FORT THOMAS - Fort Thomas resident Dr. Linda Sheffield recently returned from a workshop in Singapore where she taught teachers better ways to teach.

Sheffield, a Northern Kentucky University mathematics and mathematics education professor, spent Feb. 26 to March 1 leading a professional development session for teachers of gifted elementary school students.

Singapore's Ministry of Education invited Sheffield to teach workshops about several books she authored and a program she co-authored called "Project M3: Mentoring Mathematical Minds."

ADVERTISEMENT "It was very exciting to teach mathematics to the teachers of the top 1 percent of students," Sheffield said.

Katherine Gavin, director of M3, said the fact that teachers in Singapore are interested in the M3 project says something about the program.

"Singapore generally has higher math scores than the U.S.," Gavin said. "Now they are looking at our programs."

Sheffield said she concentrated on showing the teachers how to give their students more challenging problems.

"I showed them how to start out a problem on a simple level, then take it to a higher level," Sheffield said. "They were very interested in the problems and very involved in solving them."

Sheffield said she received a lot of positive feedback from the teachers and has been invited to come back.

Gavin said the M3 program originally began because the lack of challenge for gifted math students in elementary school was turning students away from math.

The program is currently being used in 43 states and many other countries including Singapore, Canada, and Japan.

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