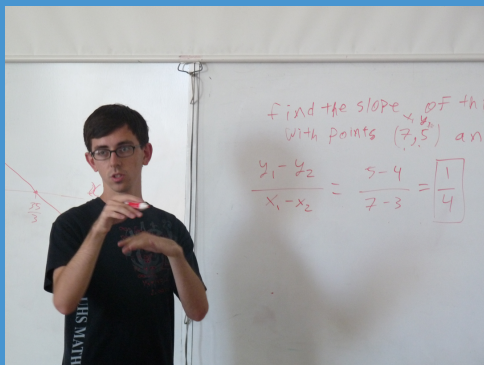


Telling Our EOP Stories

September 2010

Educational Opportunity Program



On The Fast Track To Success

by Christopher Collins

Vitaliy Goncharenko was born in Kiev, Ukraine. He immigrated with his mother to the United States in 1995 where he began elementary school. Starting in his second grade, Vitaliy knew that he wanted to go to college. Early on, Vitaliy developed an interest for math. His mother was a math teacher which added to his passion for math. In Fall 2008, Vitaliy was accepted into Fresno State and EOP.

During the summer prior to the start of his first semester at Fresno State, Vitaliy was hired as a math tutor for the Summer Bridge program. Vitaliy's main responsibility as a math tutor was to help incoming freshmen EOP students, like him, to improve their algebra skills so that they can satisfy their math remediation. He was successful as a math tutor in Summer Bridge 2008 and was promoted to Math Instructor where taught the Summer Bridge Math courses in Summer Bridge 2009 and 2010. Vitaliy is a humble individual. When asked how he felt about teaching and helping so many students to pass their Summer Bridge math challenge exam he stated, "It wasn't my teaching, tutoring helped the students pass."

Vitaliy has contributed greatly to the Summer Bridge program as a tutor and instructor. He will not be teaching math next Summer Bridge because he has just been accepted into the Master's degree program in Actuarial Science for the Spring 2011 semester at Iowa State University. Vitaliy spent just two and a half years at Fresno State to complete his Bachelor's degree in Math and anticipates just another two years to finish his Master's degree. Although he enjoys teaching math, he prefers applied mathematics over teaching. His career goal is to become an actuarial mathematician for a large finance or insurance organization. Vitaliy's best advice to other EOP students is to, "Optimize your time and maximize your strengths."

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
California State University, Fresno
5150 N. Maple Ave
Fresno, CA 93740
Call: 278.1787 or Visit: www.csufresno.edu/eop