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## Renton businessman, Bob Bridge, dreams up and funds program to help high school students do better in math

### *High school students being tutored by University of Washington mathematics majors*

RENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT—Thanks to an enterprising idea by Renton businessman Bob Bridge, 25 students at Lindbergh High School will do much better in mathematics this year.

The pilot program, proposed to the district in September by Bridge, owner of Bob Bridge Toyota/Scion, is to have students in mathematics and science master's degree programs at the University of Washington tutor 25 Lindbergh High School students in mathematics to better prepare them for the rigors of the classroom and the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), which will be administered to students in the spring.

Students this week began the one-hour tutoring sessions, with one-on-one coaching in algebra, geometry and pre-calculus. They will meet with their tutors 25 times over the next several months. Student progress will be tracked by Katelyn Hubert, math department chair at Lindbergh High, who will oversee the program. Hubert collected baseline data on each of the high school students including current grades in mathematics, classroom participation, homework, attendance and attitude toward math. She'll use data collected throughout the tutoring program to track student progress.

About 50 high school students looking for help to do better in math signed up to take part in the program: Only half could be selected. Students agreed to commit to the program, and to consistently show up for the before- and after-school tutoring sessions. Students also had to be in good standing in their class and desire to apply themselves to do better in mathematics.



Lindbergh High School junior Heidi Kunnanz (l) listens to University of Washington mathematics major Eddy Shibale during one of their 25 tutoring sessions. In the background is Renton businessman Bob Bridge, who funds the tutoring program.

*You hold the future of my company in your hands.*

*My employees come from your classrooms.*

*I want to see them and you succeed."*

*—Bob Bridge, speaking to Renton teachers*



Lindbergh High School sophomore Takia Gordon (l) celebrates with her tutor, UW mathematics major Courtney Harris after correctly solving geometry questions.

Bridge will personally pay the cost of the program, estimated at nearly \$25,000. The UW students each will earn about \$750 during the course of the program. Some have agreed to tutor more than one high school student at the individual sessions.

Bridge says he will use the success of the program to encourage other local car dealers and business owners to increase the program to include more students next year. He also hopes to present the program to Toyota to adopt similar programs nationwide.