

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP C1, MAA Session on Courses Below Calculus: A New Focus, I

1003-C1-569 **Laurie Johnson*** (johnsonla@trinitydc.edu), Department of Mathematics, Trinity College, 125 Michigan Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20017. *Making Mathematics Relevant*. Preliminary report.

As a result of attending an MAA mini course entitled "Contemporary College Algebra, a Reform Program" and an AMS-MER workshop entitled "Excellence in Undergraduate Mathematics" the Trinity mathematics department revisited the idea that traditional College Algebra is the best course for all students, particularly those not majoring in math and science. As a result of our study we decided to develop a new course, Elementary Mathematical Modeling. We designed the course to contain many of the ideas taught in a traditional College Algebra course but to de-emphasize repetitive algebraic manipulations. The course focuses on combining technology and real-world data in a way that is intended to make the material relevant to the students. This is our third semester teaching this course and we have a preliminary report on our assessment of the impact of this course on our non math and science majors. (Received September 22, 2004)