

1086-VE-2322      **Soofia Malik\*** (soofia.malik@unco.edu), 501 20th street campus box 122, Greeley, CO 80631, and **Karen Traxler** (karen.traxler@unco.edu), 501 20th street campus box 122, Greeley, CO 80631. *Investigating Undergraduate Students' Attitudes and Achievements through Writing in Blackboard Discussion Board in College Algebra Course*. Preliminary report.

The present study is a pilot study conducted to analyze the effects of writing in Blackboard's Discussion Board on students' mathematics attitudes and achievements over two sections of a College Algebra course in a university in the US. 70 students with little or no background in mathematics participated in this study (M=41, F=29). The study was conducted in two phases. During Phase I, one class was designated as the treatment group (N=36) and the other as the control group (N=34). The first half of the course covered identical material and during the latter half, students in the treatment group were required to reflect by writing on Blackboard's Discussion Board about the course content. To analyze the achievements data, a MANOVA and an independent samples t-test were conducted. During Phase II, the treatment group completed a modified version of the Mathematics Attitudes Scale. The modified instrument's reliability was examined using Cronbach's alpha and split-half reliability coefficients. The responses on the attitude survey showed high attitudes toward mathematics. Results suggest that while gender did not make a difference in attitude scores, class rank did. This presentation will expand upon the results and future directions for this study. (Received September 25, 2012)