

1106-Q5-2201 **Rikki Wagstrom*** (rikki.wagstrom@metrostate.edu), Metropolitan State University, 700 East 7th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106, and **Jodin Morey** (we9180ef@metrostate.edu), Metropolitan State University, 700 East 7th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106. *The Monarch and the Milkweed: An Exploration for Algebra Courses.*

In this presentation, a two-part curriculum appropriate for college algebra and pre-calculus courses will be discussed. The curriculum explores the topic of declining milkweed populations in Midwestern states and the potential implications for monarch butterflies. Milkweed is the primary food source for monarch larva and is therefore essential to the reproductive success of the species. The curriculum incorporates a range of quantitative literacy and algebraic skills: calculating and interpreting percent changes, working with units, interpreting densities, understanding and modeling exponential growth and decay, and making projections. The curriculum was piloted and evaluated in two sections of algebra courses during fall 2014. Student responses from the evaluations will be highlighted. (Received September 16, 2014)