

1125-D1-1456

Christine von Renesse* (cvonrenesse@westfield.ma.edu) and **Jennifer DiGrazia.**

Mathematics, Writing and Rhetoric: Deep Thinking in First-Year Learning Communities.

In this talk, we will present the idea of combining a composition and a mathematics for liberal arts course in a fully integrated learning community. Professors Christine von Renesse (Mathematics) and Jennifer DiGrazia (English) have been teaching four iterations of such a learning community, each with a different focus based on a campus-wide first year read. The two seemingly disconnected courses work toward the same meta-goals and help the students in becoming confident and critical thinkers and writers. To this effort, both instructors use inquiry-based techniques from their subject areas, as well as the mathematical curriculum from the “Discovering the Art of Mathematics” project (www.artofmathematics.org). We will present student work and survey results measuring students’ beliefs and attitudes to show the deep impact such a course can have on students (and instructors). (Received September 16, 2016)