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**Linda G Thompson\*** (lthomp@cc.edu), Linda Thompson, Carroll College, 100 N. East Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186. *The Use of ALEKS in a College Algebra Course*. Preliminary report.

In recent years Carroll College has noted a marked decline in mathematics preparedness of our students. The lowest level course offered at the college is College Algebra and over the past couple of years we have had to more than double the number of sections of this course we offer.

Many students placed into College Algebra know much of the course content but have holes or gaps in their knowledge which cause them problems in more advanced courses. When such students are placed in College Algebra, they often feel they've been misplaced and that they already "know all of this". Feeling this way, many tend to spend little time or attention on their work and, by the time they come to those gaps, they've already disengaged from the course.

During the past spring semester we piloted the computer program called ALEKS in a section of the course and this past fall have used it in all sections of the course. The ALEKS system is adaptive and throughout a term periodically assesses each student's knowledge and then guides them to the next topics that they are prepared to learn. Students learn new material both from in-class lectures and by working on ALEKS.

This will be a discussion of both the benefits and problems of using ALEKS for College Algebra. (Received July 06, 2005)