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Jose H. Giraldo* (jose.giraldo@tamucc.edu), Mathematics and Statistics Department, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 6300 Ocean Dr, Corpus Christi, TX 78412. *Making First Year Mathematics More Relevant To Science Students: Connecting mathematics and science courses*. Preliminary report.

Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi under a STEP/NSF grant started an innovation in the curriculum for first year science students. The main goal of the STEP program is to help freshmen science students succeed in their program and in particular in the mathematical component. To achieve this goal the program has brought together a team of mathematics and science faculty teaching these courses. In this presentation we will discuss the pedagogical approach to teach these courses, difficulties recruiting faculty to teach those courses, professional development and results, an attitude and mathematical preparedness of science students toward mathematics. The data collected so far indicates a positive relation between mathematics success and success in science, which reinforces research findings indicating the success of science students who have better mathematical preparation. (Received September 16, 2008)