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**Juli D'Ann Ratheal\*** (ratheal\_j@utpb.edu), 4901 E. University Blvd., MESA Office 4132, Odessa, TX 79762. *Creating Active Learning Environments with Improved Student/Teacher Relationships and State Assessment Scores.*

Data will be presented which supports the conjecture that increasing the level of student engagement will improve conceptual understanding and retention of learning objectives. Data was collected over a three year period measuring the effects of specific instructional interventions for two diverse student population groups, middle school mathematics students and college algebra students. Information will include: 1) funding sources, 2) structure and design of content workshops, 3) topics and resources included in pedagogical training, 4) student surveys, and 5) external evaluator reports. The professional development activities have resulted in the following: 1) a significant increase in students' conceptual understand, 2) a deeper conceptual understanding among teachers, 3) increased state assessment scores, 4) improved classroom management skills, 5) created learner-centered environments, 6) improved teacher/student relationships, and 7) initiated changes in instruction from lecture-based to active-learner based. (Received September 09, 2008)