This presentation will discuss various activities implemented in the mathematics department of Winona State University to create an environment for mathematical understanding across the entire spectrum of the curriculum. The activities include offering an upper level research based Mathematical Thinking course for the mathematics majors, the Distinguished Lecture Series in Mathematics, Colloquium Series, establishing Mathematics Achievement Center and giving students experience for attending and presenting at the regional and national mathematics meetings. Moreover, a grant writing experience for creating a scholarship program in mathematics to improve educational opportunities for academically talented and financially needy students, will be discussed. (Received September 16, 2009)