962-T1-215 Robert N. Talbert* (talbertr@bethel-in.edu), Division of Mathematics and Computer Science, Bethel College, 1001 W. McKinley Ave., Mishawaka, IN 46545, and Kirk E. Weller (wellerk@bethel-in.edu), Division of Mathematics and Computer Science, Bethel College, 1001 W. McKinley Ave., Mishawaka, IN 46545. *Building Community among Mathematics and Related Majors through a Freshman Orientation Experience.* Preliminary report.

Student retention and success in mathematics and related degree programs are enhanced if those students perceive themselves as part of a community within their programs. However, such communities often do not form early enough, and high levels of attrition can occur before students perceive inclusion in a community. To counteract this phenomenon, and to catalyze the early formation of community, the Mathematics/Computer Science Division at Bethel College designed and implemented a Freshman Orientation experience for mathematics and related majors (and for undeclared majors) to supplement the college's campus-wide freshman orientation. We will discuss what we did, what worked, what we would have done differently, and how other departments can implement similar programs. (Received August 29, 2000)