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Lisa Driskell* (ldriskel@coloradomesa.edu), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, 1100 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501, and **Tracii Friedman** (tfriedma@coloradomesa.edu), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, 1100 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501.
Shifting the Culture: Actively Engaging Students in Introductory Service Courses.

Colorado Mesa is a regional public university with over 10,000 students and more than 3,200 taking in introductory mathematics and statistics courses each year. The math department has recently made a commitment to re-evaluate each of our introductory course offerings with the goal of making them more meaningful to students enrolled while also addressing new state guidelines for placement. Our early efforts include implementing new placement practices, piloting supplemental instruction courses, assessing current active learning course activities, and meeting with department leaders across campus to determine how to better serve the needs of their programs. Our aim is to be intentional about actively engaging students in content relevant to their disciplines and future careers.

In this talk, we will discuss these early efforts as well as our initiative to facilitate a culture shift in our department by creating venues for sharing experiences and expertise for actively engaging students. Such venues include Faculty Communities of Practice, regular Faculty Professional Development activities, and community electronic resource collections. We describe our experiences navigating the successes and challenges while in the early stages of change. (Received September 17, 2019)