

1163-A5-1418 **Mike May*** (mike.may@slu.edu). *Variables and Parameters in Math for Business*. Preliminary report.

At Saint Louis University, we have an ongoing seminar to discuss how to make math education more effective for business students. A topic consistently brought up by the business faculty is the need for students to distinguish variables and parameters in multivariable functions. Traditionally, introductory math courses work in functions of one variable and do this by designating all but one of the variables as parameters. In the applied setting, the variable moves along the curve and parameters move the curve.

The collaboration led to modification in both math and business courses. For business courses we produced visualization tools for examples of using parameters and variables in introductory courses in accounting, economics and finance. For math courses, this has led to an adjustment in a business flavored college algebra course where the students work with the multivariable functions concerning loans, but then have to answer questions where the changing context changes which quantities are parameters and which are variables. (Received September 15, 2020)