

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP K1, MAA Session on Countering “I Can’t Do Math”: Strategies for Teaching Under-Prepared, Math-Anxious Students

1003-K1-1331 **Dant A. Tawfeeq*** (dtawfeeq@yahoo.com). *Strategies for Teaching Developmental Mathematics to Under-Prepared Students at a Historically Black University.*

This paper will discuss methods I utilized in the School of General Studies at the Florida A&M University, the largest Historically Black University in the United States, for issues related to students who are under-prepared to perform efficiently in collegiate level mathematics courses. In an effort to manage the deficiencies of students who are under-prepared to perform efficiently in tertiary mathematics courses, the School of General Studies created the Division of Preparatory and Developmental Mathematics. As a result of my training/experiences in the teaching of mathematics at the middle, secondary and tertiary educational levels, I decided to create a program that would augment methods currently used in the DPDM. This program, the Ladder Program, gave students the opportunity to learn about the learning of mathematics and how/why gaps in their mathematical knowledge might exist. The Ladder Program, which is not apart of the DPDM’s standard curriculum, has yielded two wonderful results. The first result is an 82% passing rate on the state mandated exit exam, where as in other instructors classes, the passing rate is 54%. The second result is that students have developed the courage to pursue solution to mathematical problems without fear of results. (Received October 05, 2004)