

1023-G5-1312 **Joyce F. Fischer*** (jf10@txstate.edu), Texas State University, 601 University Drive, Room 470 Mathematics Building, San Marcos, TX 78666. *How Can I Help My Students Enjoy Learning Mathematics Instead of Being Afraid of It? Fostering Positive Mathematics Experiences With Special Needs and English Language Learner Populations.*

This session will discuss teaching practices that are being used in the Texas Rio Grande Valley to provide methods that foster the development of the problem solving skills and processes that are necessary for attaining successful higher order reasoning ability especially as they pertain to special populations such as English Language Learners and special needs students. By addressing the specific mathematics learning styles of these students, teachers trained by the researcher have shown significant results on the standardized Texas test (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills-TAKS) without using the conventional teach-to-the-test methods. Research results show that when the teachers applied the methods learned in graduate classes taught by the researcher, the students had better attitudes and self efficacy about the mathematics that they were learning as well as significantly increased content levels. (Received September 25, 2006)