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**Florence S Gordon\*** (fgordon@iris.nyit.edu), , Old Westbury, NY 11568. *Traditional College Algebra/Trig versus a Modeling Approach: Comparing Student Performance.*

NYIT conducted a comprehensive study comparing the benefits of a mathematical modeling approach to college algebra/trig versus the traditional course whose emphasis is primarily the development of algebraic skills. The modeling course features a more active learning environment for the students with a focus on both the behavior of families of functions and the notion of fitting functions to data as the two unifying themes. In this study, comparisons were made about the entering level of students' algebraic skills, pre- and post- attitudes toward math, performance on common problems on both final exams, performance in the follow-up calculus course on quizzes, exams, and final exam, and student retention and persistence rates. Details on all of these analyses will be presented. (Received September 15, 2000)