

962-K1-385

Cathy W Carter* (ccarter@cbu.edu), Christian Brothers University, 650 East Parkway South, Memphis, TN 38104. *Engaging Students with Hands-On Algebra Activities.*

An option for business and liberal arts majors at Christian Brothers University is a course in the spirit of reform mathematics that includes an introduction to calculus. Many liberal arts majors find mention of "calculus" intimidating. The math department accepted the challenge to create a new course. The department insisted on the same level of mathematical rigor and experimentation. Topics were chosen to interest liberal arts majors. The "c" word is not in the syllabus. "Math Modeling with Algebra" gathered materials to meet the challenge. The materials included some of the modules of the NSF sponsored project "Hands On Algebra Activities" of James Sandefur and Rosalie Dance. The modules used included: Trivial Pursuits and Algebraic Models, A Study of Malaria and Sickle Cell Anemia, Alcohol and Your Body, Reading This Could Help You Sleep: Caffeine in Your Body, and Get the Lead Out. The selected modules, used as collaborative activities, convinced students that mathematics is relevant in understanding the world outside of the classroom. This presentation details the implementation of some of the modules during the pilot section of the course. (Received September 13, 2000)