

962-L1-422

Rebekah Dupont* (dupont@augsborg.edu), Augsburg College, Department of Mathematics, 2211 Riverside Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55454. *A Community Based Modeling Project - The Human Cost of Census Undercounting*. Preliminary report.

This talk will detail the topic, context, and impact of a project that was the major component of an upper-level modeling course, the mathematics practicum, at Augsburg College. As an upper-level, project-based course with a small number of students, the mathematics practicum was designed to create opportunities for mathematics majors to experience service learning within their discipline. The project, pursued by students in the fall of 1999, involved creating a model for estimating the cost, in terms of lost public and private Census-based funding allocations, of differential undercounting in the 2000 Census to a neighboring community. The West Bank Community Coalition (WBCC), an organization representing the diverse urban community surrounding Augsburg, was the "client" or "community partner", and both posed the problem to the students and was the audience for their results. Overall, the project and course seemed to substantially contribute to students attitudes about the applicability of mathematics to real-world problems. (Received September 13, 2000)