

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, SS 2A, AMS-MAA-MER Special Session on Mathematics and Education Reform, I

1003-97-303 **Naomi Fisher*** (ndfisher@uic.edu), UIC, Dept of MSCS (M/C 249), 851 S. Morgan Street, Chicago, IL 60607, and **David Jabon, Lynn Narasimhan** and **Paul Sally**. *Chicago Algebra Initiative: A Multi-University Collaboration for Middle School Teachers*.

In 2002, faculty from three Chicago universities and staff from the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) met regularly to organize the CPS Algebra Initiative with the goal of increasing the number of CPS middle grade teachers who are prepared to teach algebra in the eighth grade. The Algebra Initiative was launched in 2003-04 with programs at DePaul University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. The programs ran for a full academic-year, and included a common certifying examination jointly administered at the completion of the programs. Over 100 teachers participated in the three programs. In this session, faculty from the three programs will describe the process of organizing the initiative and ongoing plans to continue and expand the initiative. The presenters will describe the needs of the CPS system and its teachers, the evolution of the multi-university effort, the curricula that were developed for the initiative, some early assessment results, and a summary of lessons learned and recommendations. (Received September 08, 2004)