

**Meeting:** 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP C1, MAA Session on Courses Below Calculus: A New Focus, I

1003-C1-1146      **Norma M Agras\*** (nagras@mdc.edu), Mathematics Department, Wolfson, 300 NE 2nd Ave,  
Room 1540, Miami, FL 33132. *A Vision Becomes Reality.*

My vision has been to model the AMATYC Standards and the Recommendations of the MAA. We have been approaching that vision asymptotically or schizophrenically. We have been offering Contemporary College Algebra wherein we implement group, project-based learning with extensive use of technology. Success rates in these sections have been consistently markedly higher than in the traditional. More and more instructors have adopted the approach. It is being recommended as an alternative to College Algebra college wide. To make this approach successful, buy-in by a few faculty members initially was followed by training of staff, dissemination of information, appropriate setting, and a schedule that allowed parallel sections of our two versions of College Algebra. I have encouraged the two "camps" to communicate; I am a strong believer in communication and working together toward a common goal. Contemporary College Algebra, along with a developmental program that includes required group work with a facilitator, activities for students to foster an appreciation for mathematics, faculty who are dynamic and strongly encouraged to try new approaches and technology, and administrative support have been factors in a very successful mathematics program for a very diverse group of students. (Received October 04, 2004)