Abstract Submitted for the PSF09 Meeting of The American Physical Society

A Freshman Science Cohort Class for Underprepared Students¹ NATHAN MOORE², JOHN DEMING³, Winona State University — A troubling fraction of students in STEM majors flounder at the introductory level. The most compelling reason for this is a lack of adequate intellectual preparation. On a fundamental level, science is done by thinking critically about the natural world. Students with weak quantitative reasoning skills will struggle in quantitative science fields. The talk will discuss the depth of the problem, a teaching strategy implemented at Winona State University which is designed to enhance these skills, and initial results, indicating a substantial increase in student ability and retention in STEM fields.

¹Support from the Minnesota State College and University System ²Department of Physics ³Department of Chemistry

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Date submitted: 16 Oct 2009

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