**Welcome to Math 135 – Sections 899 & 898**

**College Algebra Online Course**

**Instructor: Gary Stafford**

**Greetings:**

**I like to welcome you to College Algebra, Math 135 – Section 899 or Section 898. If you are not aware that this class is taught online and is not a traditional in-class instruction based course, let me be the first to tell you. Part of the grading will be online but a greater percentage of the grading will be based on onsite testing. More details regarding this are within the syllabus and policy statement which are attached.**

**We will be using MyMathLab (a part of MathXL) which the Pearson Publishing Company uses for their online math courses. MyMathLab uses Blackboard as the back drop to deliver the content for the course. However, this course is not just a simple BlackBoard course. Some of you may have already tried to access the course using BlackBoard. It will not be found there. There is access fees associated with this course and the cost depends on whether you purchase the codes through the bookstore that are bundled with the book or if you purchase the codes online. More information regarding this is in another attached document. I would strongly suggest you purchase the book at the bookstore that is bundled with the codes (ask for Math 135 book for Section 899 or Section 898). There is no substitute for studying math with a tangible book. MyMathLab does have an e-book using our current textbook but I would recommend using that as a supplementary tool, or if you are studying away from your normal study area without access to the textbook.**

**The delivery of instruction for this course will be accomplished using the following:**

1. **Tutorials within MyMathLab. Homework will be given within MyMathLab for extra practice.**
2. **Supplementary notes and extra practice problems will be given by instructor using the Assignment folder within MyMathMathLab.**
3. **We will be using Whiteboard in MyMathLab (access instructions will come later) as a virtual classroom where the instructor will work problems in real time. This will be set up as a Question and Answer forum and you will be required to visit on a weekly basis. More information on this is forthcoming.**

**I am also be sending the following information:**

1. **Instructions of buying Access Codes for the course.**
2. **Book requirements**
3. **Syllabus and policy statement**

**I would strongly suggest that you review these three documents in detail especially the syllabus and the policy statement within the next couple of days.**

**I am looking forward to getting to know each of you. I will see each of you on our first mandatory meeting at 7:00 pm on June 7. Please allow 3 hours on this initial meeting. We have a lot to discuss. Location is forthcoming.**

**Gary Stafford – M.A., Mathematics, Missouri State University**