

Slide #1:

Eyerusalem Woldegebreal – STEP Scholar

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The Questions of Interest:

What factors influence African American woman to shy away from mathematics in college? A second question of interest looks at families, friends, and media and their influence on the choice of a college major for African American women. Lastly, what do African American women need in order to be successful in mathematics?

Major Themes:

After interviewing several African American women and principals from colleges and high schools as well as reviewing literature, the following themes were identified:

- **Teacher Student Relationships**
- **Parental Involvement**
- **Preferences for Learning Mathematics**
- **Lack of Role Models**
- **Self Confidence**

Slide #2:

Conclusions:

If I could change the way African American students are taught mathematics, I would:

- **Provide appropriate role models for African American students (from industry and higher ed).**
- **Use different approaches in class to accommodate African American student learning styles.**
- **Support and develop parental involvement in class and with homework.**
- **Stress positive feedback on advances in mathematics learning by students.**
- **Educate teachers through workshops on motivations, conversation styles, and social preferences of students.**

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