

## **Oral Communication Assessment at Harold Washington College**

**Fall 2013**

### **General Education Outcomes: Oral Communication**

Upon completion of their Associate Degree, students will demonstrate their proficiency in **Oral Communication** by the following:

1. Creating structured, effective presentations with relevant supportive materials in the academic or professional domain.
2. Demonstrating their command of Standard American English with content appropriate to the audience in an academic or professional field.
3. Employing effective Oral Communication techniques.
4. Expressing respect for human diversity in a variety of contexts.

**Oral Communication Skills rank as “very important” among the top five skills required in today’s American workforce.**

### **Who Participated?**

Applied Science – 61 students; Art and Architecture – 13 students; Business – 16 students; English Language Learners – 114 students; English, Speech, and Theatre – 32 students; Humanities and Music – 29 students; Mathematics and CIS – 78 students; Physical Science – 23 students; Social Sciences – 123; Other disciplines – 91 students. Total – 580 students.

### **What Was Assessed?**

**Oral Presentation:** content, delivery, language, organization, supporting materials.

### **Assessment Findings:**

1. In all areas of assessment, the student mean score was *above the average* on the scale 0-4.
2. The highest mean score was in the *content area*.
3. The lowest mean score was in the *delivery area*.
4. Completion of Speech 101 (Required Gen Ed Core course at CCC) *did not affect* student presentation scores.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Oral presentations should be part of course requirements across the disciplines.
2. Oral presentations should have a clear content and structure based on the Oral Communication Rubric.
3. Oral presentations should be prepared with focus on the audience.

4. Preparation for oral presentations should focus on building confidence in students.
5. Faculty interaction in discussing and preparation of Oral Communication assignments would facilitate the development of Oral Communication Skills across the curriculum.
6. Communication should be encouraged between Speech and non-Speech faculty so that the criteria for oral presentations can be better understood and uniformly applied across the disciplines.