

**Advancing Community College Careers: Education, Scholarship, Service
(Project ACCCESS)**

Individual/Group Project Summary

Title: Linear Equations Assessment

Project Member(s): Jeff Downs, Rob Eby, Lordus Pajo, Sarah Stanley

Describe the problem, issue, or area of interest and the context. This project focused on students understanding of the concepts of a linear function, and related items, such as slope, increasing and decreasing functions, and reading graphs.

Define your desired goals, or “outcomes.” We wanted to first identify what concepts students were struggling with. We then had exercises to follow up on those areas of weakness. Finally, we wanted to see if there was a correlation between student’s success on the test, and success in the classroom.

Describe your “indicators” of success. We used a test of our own design to identify the concepts, and then used the letter grade given for the measure of success in the classroom.

Describe your project. We introduced the test problems, and also some different ways to think about linear functions.

Describe your results. We found that students, even advanced Calculus students, were weak in concepts regarding linear functions. We also found no strong correlation between a student’s scores on the concept test and their overall grade.

Describe your evaluation methods. We deemed our project a success because it helped us as instructors see where our students were weak. This in turn will enable us to focus more attention on those areas to help students gain a greater understanding of linear functions.