

In fall 2004, the program's primary need was met when the school hired a full time instructor to bring the defunct program to its feet. Before any thoughts of "growth" could be considered, the program's problems had to be identified and addressed. Program deficiencies included the use of: old text books, course outlines that did not meet criteria set forth by the state, classrooms that were not conducive to the learning environment needed in a Communication course and an overall lack of technology use in the classroom. Other problems that resided in the program focused on classroom material (curriculum) that did not focus on the latest concepts within the discipline. All of this and more resulted in the defunct program that existed in 2004. Once the program's problems were located, they were addressed.

At present, the program offers quality education at the university level that fosters student growth. The purpose of the Speech Communication Department is to assist & facilitate learning among our student body to insure that they increase their communication competence in a variety of contexts. The program presently offers two (2) courses: Speech 100: Public Speaking, and; Speech 120: Interpersonal Communication. Both courses are aligned with CSM & Skyline Colleges & are articulated with the UC & CSU system, (CSU GE A1 & IGETC 1C). In 2006, the program completed course outline review & updates to insure current standards be met. Student Learning Outcomes were also complete at this time. Finally, Program Review & the Bi-Annual State of the Department Data Collection Document was completed by the programs full time instructor, Anthony R. Perez.

During the last 2 years, the program has become revitalized. The following applies to all program courses. New texts, both hard copy & E-text are used in all courses making course content more accessible and affordable to the student. Each course uses a website (made available by the publisher to decrease program spending) that allows students to conduct research specific to Speech Communication studies, download lecture notes, complete exams, perform course activities, evaluate speeches, analyze discipline concepts & theories in everyday life scenarios, and receive actual feedback from discipline experts on the east coast. The incorporation of technology in the program may contribute to the great increase in program success and retention which is up by 15.6% & 18.1% respectively.

In spring 2006, the program installed testing software throughout the Learning Center to insure that all students in the program have the opportunity to use the website resources regardless of computer ownership or internet access in the home. Presently students in program courses can access the Online Speech Lab (Speech 100) or the Communication Lab (Speech 120) 24 hours a day from anywhere in the world. Because the program has incorporated this technology into its classrooms and courses, students can now afford to miss class without the fear of falling behind. With this cause of fear eliminated, students are more likely to not drop the course and to actually increase success. Students who use these online Labs are earning grades higher than in the past. This claim is made by the publisher's representative and supported by program observations.

Program curriculum is now inclusive of current concepts, theories and skills as the Internet has created an entirely new field of communication: Computer Mediated Communication. This is a very exciting form of communication for both the faculty and the student body as it is both new and relative to our students' daily life, personal growth and academic success.

Also, the program courses are offered in room 3-254; a Smart Classroom that is used with the program laptop (2005). Technology is further incorporated into classroom by teaching all students to create & utilize PowerPoint in their presentations. All program courses require oral presentations. The knowledge gained by students in these areas foster personal growth and success in other courses as well as provides skills needed in today's workforce.

In addition to Technological skills and Computer-Mediated-Communication based curriculum, our program continues to provide coursework and training in proficient oral & written communication skills. Also, the program has expanded by offering an additional evening section and hiring a new adjunct faculty member (2006).

The program will further expand when the Speech Lab opens in late 2007. Faculty consulted with Speech Lab coordinator to insure that the Speech Lab be furnished with an adequate amount of current technology & equipment to better serve the student body. Although available to the entire campus, students in our courses will benefit from the Speech Lab through individual consultation and personalized coaching by program faculty.

The program goals also consist of a name change. The full time instructor is spearheading a movement to change the name of the program/department in the district. We propose that our name be changed from "Speech Communication Department" to "Department of Communication Studies". The program no longer identifies itself with "Speech", but rather, "Communication". Present name is misrepresentative of what the program offers and may contribute to a lack of growth because the word "speech" instills fear in most people, regardless of culture, ethnicity, age, race, sex, etc. (Glossophobia is #1 fear in the world.) CSM is presently in agreement. Skyline College has not made a final decision as of the writing of this summary. A name change may create more interest in the program. Finally, articulation with the UC/CSU system will be easier as program names will be aligned.

The program is also working towards smaller enrollment caps, offering three new courses and eventually a degree. A department website is a short term goal as is a plan to develop a Speech Forum.

Finally, everything that the program has experienced in the last two years is a result of hiring a full time instructor in 2004. Anthony R. Perez has been teaching in both Community Colleges & Universities for 12 years; 8 years in the district and 2 ½ years here at Canada. He works well with both colleagues and students paying special attention to student needs. He is dedicated to student success in both the classroom and in a "one-on-one" situation, such as preparation of student speakers for Commencement and other celebrations of student achievement both on and off campus. He sat on the Curriculum committee for a year and a half, taking a leave during spring 2007 to focus all attention on the program. Professional Development activities were completed in 2006 by attending Curriculum Institute. These experiences resulted in program growth in that they allowed the full time instructor to complete any and all curriculum needs for the program. His passion for learning and communication has been the fuel that is a result of the programs present state of excellence.

Today, the Speech Communication program is an asset to the community and confident in contributing to the College mission and District priorities by increasing student success in other areas of study by focusing its curriculum on skills necessary for public, group, interpersonal and computer mediated communication both inside and outside of the classroom. Furthermore, the program provides training in proficient oral communication skills and other necessary skills for successful entry into, and promotion within the workforce.

The Speech Communication Department's goal is to not only teach the required and necessary curriculum for graduation and/or transfer, but to create inquisitive learners & more competent communicators who are excited about communication in their lives and use what they learn to enhance their personal lives, as well as their professional/career, and academic endeavors.

Thank you,
Speech Communication Department/Program 03/27/07

