

Outside the

Notes from Institutional Effectiveness

Data Format Study

The scope of the study was to explore the end user perception of comfort reviewing, identifying trends and overall preference of data format and presentation. The categories that were assess included raw data, tabular data, graphs, and statistical analysis output. Additionally, the research sought to identify any difference between job classification and perception to data presentation to support a unified approach to provide information.

A survey was distributed to the Lassen Community College (LCC) employee population over a two week span. The survey yielded a response rate of 70%. The participants of the survey were composed primarily of faculty member followed by classified staff and administration/management.

Table 1 *Participants*

Occupational Classification	Percent
Administration /Management	10%
Classified Staff	24%
Faculty Members	67%

Of the respondents, only 77% of indicated to have reviewed institutional data within the past six months.

Comfort Reviewing

The descriptive data indicated all employees were comfortable reviewing graphical and tabular data. Similar findings were determined in raw data with the exception of faculty members, which leaned more towards neutral. In contrast, there was a low level of comfort across all employees with statistical analysis output with exception to administration/management which indicated being neutral.

Identifying Trends

The descriptive data indicated all employees agreed with being able to identify trends in graphical and tabular data. In contrast, all employees indicated a low level of agreement to the interpretation of the statistical analysis output. There a mixture within the identification of trends in raw data as faculty and classified staff were neural.

Preference

The descriptive data indicated all employees preferred graphical and tabular data, while staying neutral about raw data and opposing statistical analysis output.

Additionally, analyses were conducted to determine if there was any statistical difference between the occupational groups and comfort reviewing, identifying trends and preference in data by format modality. The findings indicated there was no statistically significant difference between job classification and level of comfort, identification of trends or preference by format modality. Thus, confirming a consensus among employee on data format preference and utilization.

Our Perspective

The vision of the Department of Institutional Effectiveness is to continuously build and support a culture of evidence through the provision of institutional research studies, effectiveness enhancing methodologies and innovative strategic planning approaches to increase institutional and student performance.

