

1116-P5-485

Olaseni T. Fadipe* (fadip1ot@cmich.edu), Mathematics Department, Central Michigan University, Pearce 214, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859. *The Development of Quantitative Literacy (QL) in College Students.*

The ability to use basic mathematics to make sense of numerical information found around us is called Quantitative Literacy (QL). The need for quantitatively literate citizens is now frequently discussed not only amongst mathematicians and the academic community but also amongst people in government and industry. Increasingly, QL courses are now being taught at many universities to meet this need. In this presentation, I will discuss the outcome of a study that examined the QL skills of college students with regards to some basic mathematics concepts. 36 students were asked to complete pre- and post-tasks on percentages, large numbers, and graphs. Results show that students did better in large numbers and graphs tasks than they did in percentages tasks. For example, more than half of the students failed to realize that when you decrease a number by a percentage and then increase the reduced number by the same percentage, the new number is not the same as the original number. Two students were also interviewed and asked to complete a financial decision-making task. Their attempts of this task suggest that students could have difficulty differentiating between a percent bonus and a percent increase. I will conclude my talk by discussing the teaching implications of this work. (Received September 04, 2015)