

What do the words “integrity,” “hooligan,” and “xenophobia” have in common? They were all first place winners in the North Platte Community College Public Speaking word contest.

For the contest, students in the public speaking class were challenged to select any word they liked, research it, and present a speech about the word to the class. This provided the opportunity for the students to learn about the power of words, both in writing and in speaking.

“The emphasis in the class is not only on improved public speaking, but on vocabulary building,” said Nadyne Crumly, NPCC Speech/Human Relations instructor. “Powerful public speakers with extensive vocabularies are often more successful in speaking to make a difference.

Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X are considered fine examples.”

The students were judged on their presentations in areas such as giving a good definition of their word, using it in a way that it isn’t typically used or associated with, their research on the origin and history of the word, speaking extemporaneously and having good eye contact.

NPCC Business Instructor Jean Condon and Student Advisor Kristen Grimes served as judges for the contest.

The words “abbrev,” “mother,” “polyphony,” “discursive,” “smile,” “misunderstand,” “unique,” “creative/creativity,” and “schlafen/slafen/sleep” were among the other words selected by the students.

Students Ann Kuroki, Tara Buonemani, and Aubrey Halligan were named as first place winners in the contest. Kelsey Callaghan and Jessi Johnson tied for second place and Bert Ogg, Christy Freihage and Ashly Duin came in third.

