ILFI-Wheel: An Innovative Leadership Assessment

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Introduction and Need

- The need for quality leaders continues to grow in society.
- Colleges play an integral role in the development of the next generation of leaders (Astin, Astin, & Associates, 2000).
- There is a need for leadership assessments that are understandable and useful for students.

Background

- In order to meet the need for a versatile, useful leadership instrument the Individual Leadership Factors Inventory (ILFI) was developed.
- ILFI: 40 Likert-type question instrument broken into eight leadership constructs.
- In addition the ILFI-Wheel was developed as a way to graphically represent the eight leadership traits found on the ILFI.

ILFI Development

First Iteration*

Intelligence

Confidence

Charisma

Determination

Integrity

Sociability

Leadership Efficacy

Decision-Making

Panel of
Experts,
4 Pilot Tests
& 2 Factor
Analyses

ILFI

Impact

Confidence

Empathy

Determination

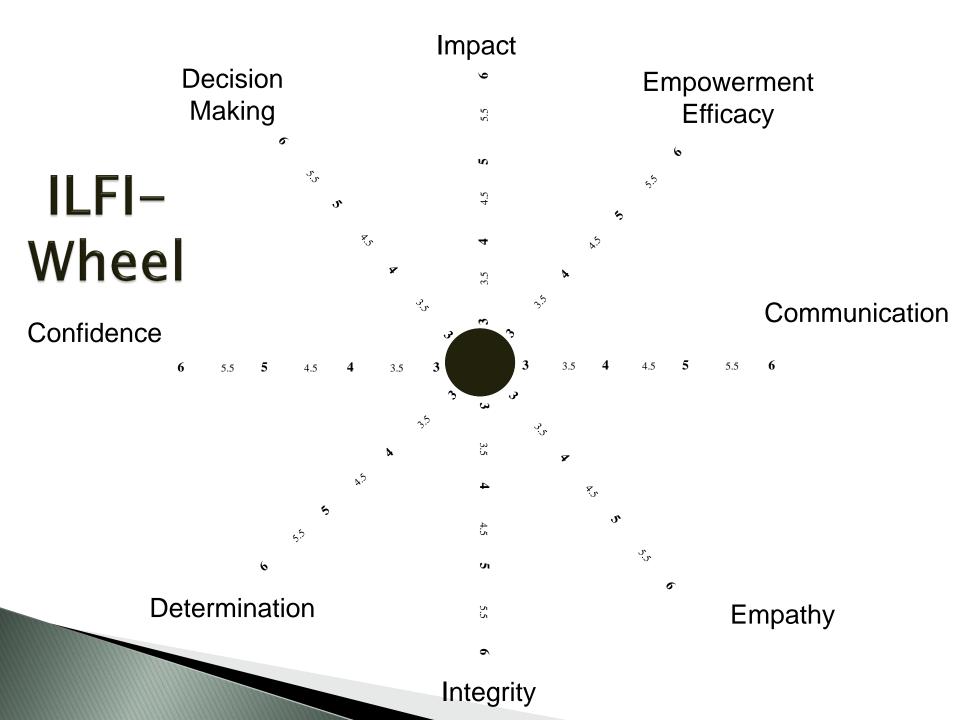
Integrity

Communication

Empowerment Efficacy

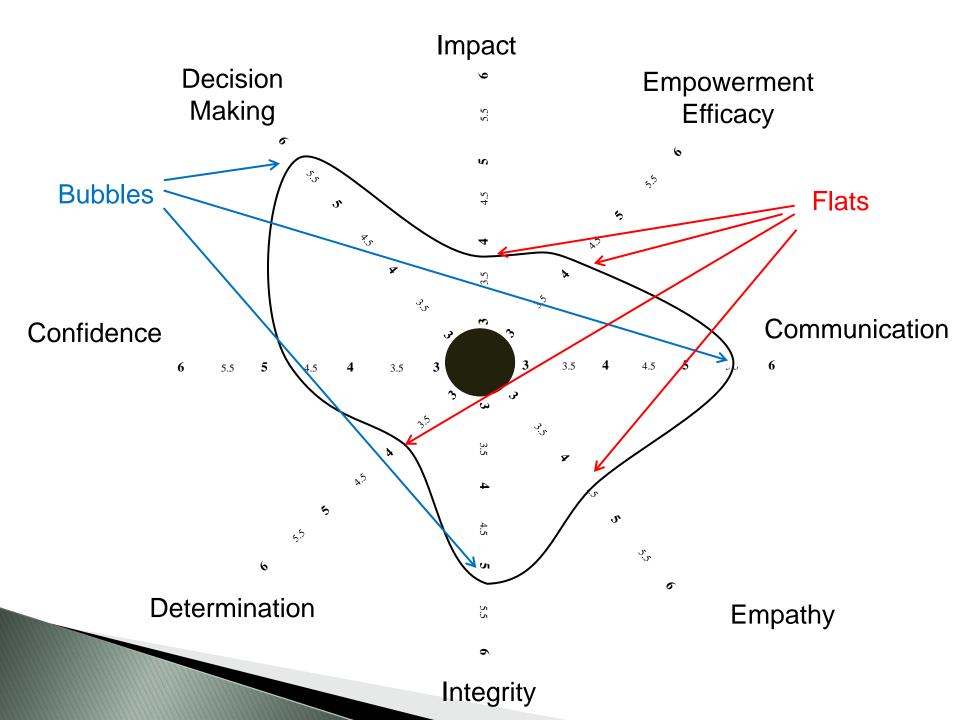
Decision-Making

*Based on works by Northouse (2010), Avolio (2010)



The Process

- Students complete the 40 question ILFI and then summate their scores based on the eight leadership constructs.
- Students then plot their scores on the ILFI-Wheel, creating a visual representation of their leadership skills.
- Students then analyze their wheel for "bumps" and "flats" that indicate leadership strengths (bubbles) and areas for potential growth (flats).



Example Objectives

Student Level:

 Analyze the leadership characteristics of individual students....

Class Level:

 Analyze the leadership characteristics of students in a leadership development class at Oregon State University....

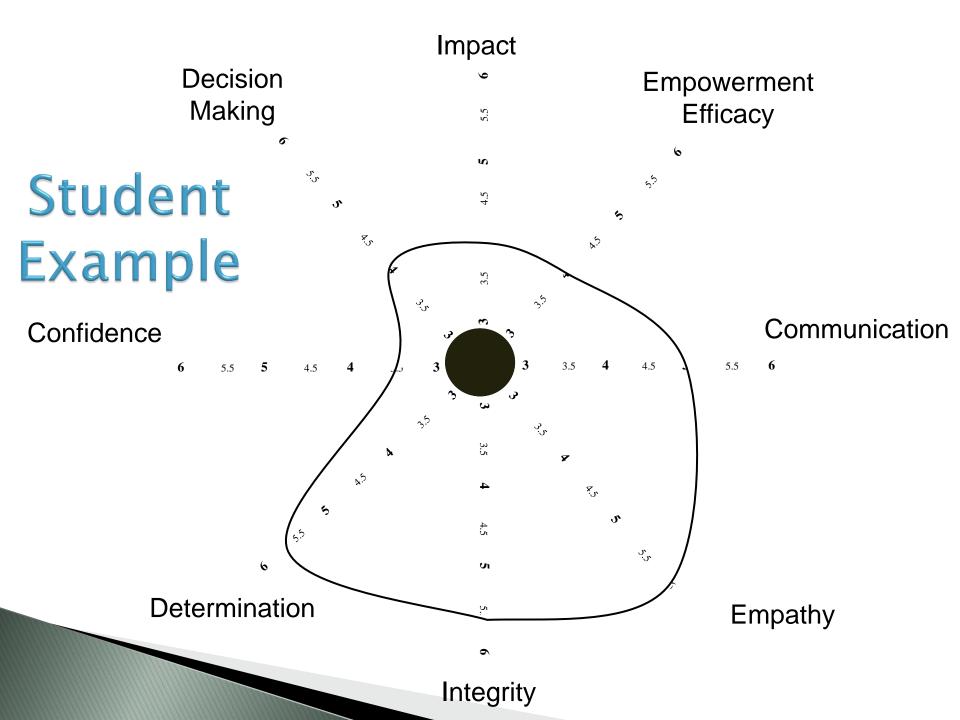
....through the use of the ILFI and ILFI-Wheel.

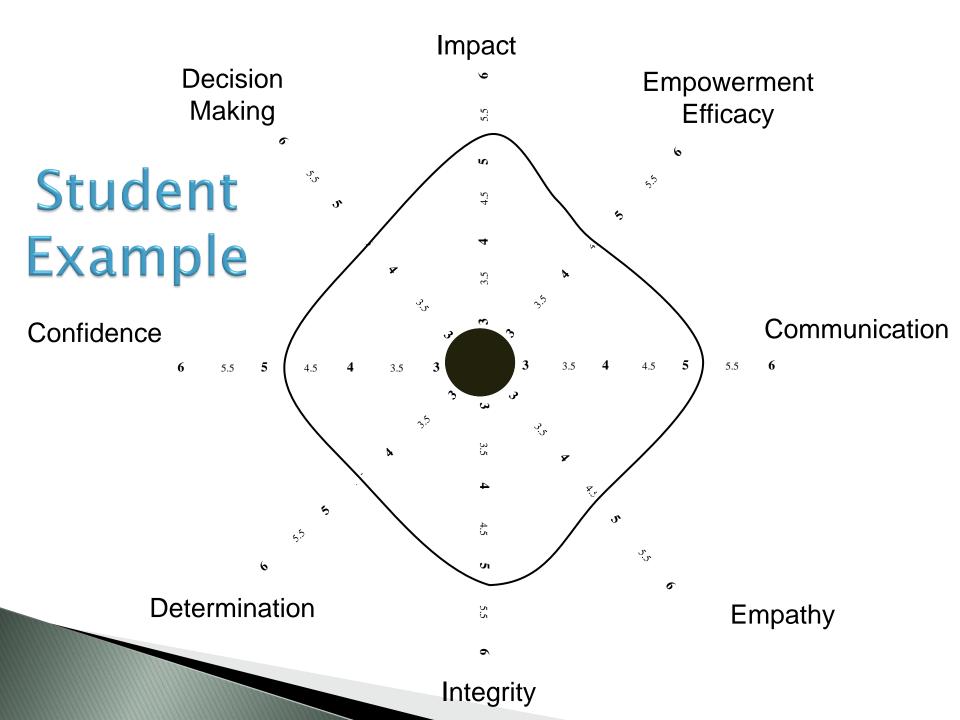
Example Group / Methods

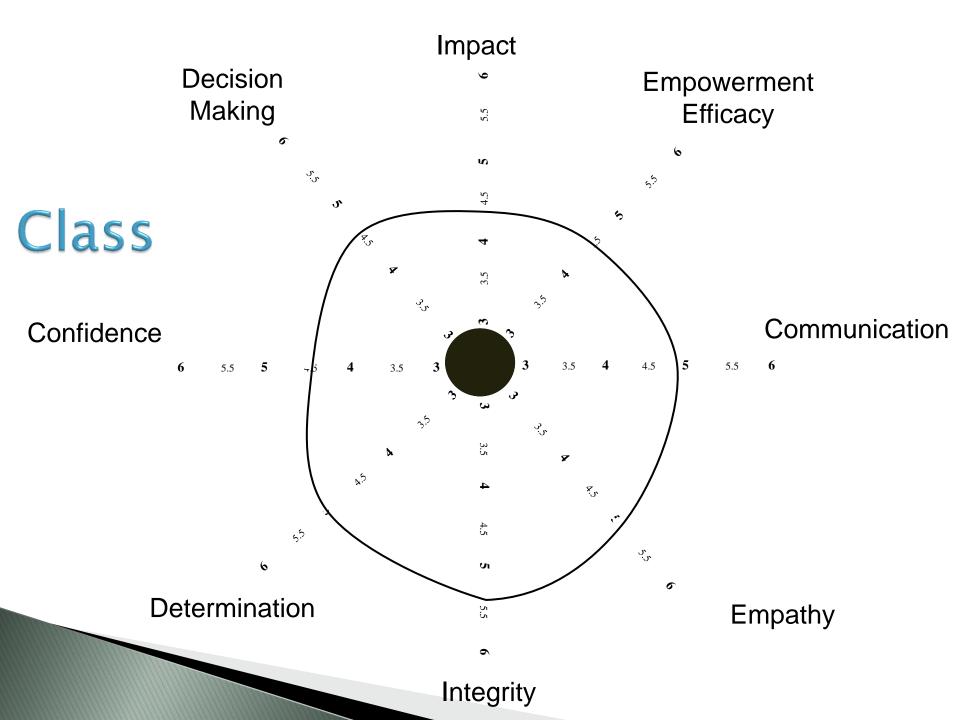
- ▶ 41 Students
- Freshman to Senior level
- Assessment taken at the middle of the term.
- ▶ ILFI and ILFI-Wheel: 45 Minutes

Findings

Leadership Factor	Mean Score
Integrity	5.42
Empathy	5.15
Determination	5.04
Communication	4.84
Decision-Making	4.65
Confidence	4.52
Empowerment Efficacy	4.46
Impact	4.40







Conclusions

- Individual students had a variety of "flats" and "bubbles."
- Class as a whole was "well-rounded" in their leadership skills.
- Students were able to easily understand their leadership skills as well as set leadership goals based on the results of the ILFI and ILFI-Wheel.

Discussion

- ILFI and ILFI-Wheel can be used with a variety of groups including: classes, clubs, in-class groups, teams and faculty groups.
- Authors are open to sharing the tools with other educators.
 - Please e-mail Jonathan Velez at jonathan.velez@oregonstate.edu for a copy of the instrument.

Thank You!

What questions do you have?