

NACCTEP Conference Feedback

Thank you to all 2009 NACCTEP conference attendees who completed a conference evaluation either at the conference or online. Your input is important to us as we assess what aspects of the conference were well received, and in what areas we can continue to improve. As of April 3, 2009, we received 73 evaluations from conferees. See a summary of evaluation results, as well as proposed actions based upon your input, below.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

- 100% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that the **conference was well organized**, that conference **staff members/volunteers were informative**, and that the **conference met their objectives**.
- 97% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that they would **recommend the 2010 conference** to their colleagues.
- 94% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that the **conference was well publicized**, and that they were **satisfied with the conference schedule**.

Please rate your satisfaction with the following.

- 94% felt the keynote by Mark Milliron was 'excellent' or 'above average.'
- 85% felt the forums were 'excellent' or 'above average.'
- 84% felt the networking opportunities **and** breakout sessions were 'excellent' or 'above average.'
- 83% felt the welcome reception was 'excellent' or 'above average.'
- 82% felt the keynote by Timothy Slater was 'excellent' or 'above average.'
- 80% felt the keynote by Sharon Bowman **and** the Regional Roundtable Session were 'excellent' or 'above average.'
- 74% felt the location/facilities were 'excellent' or 'above average.'
- 45% felt the poster sessions were 'excellent' or 'above average.'

The most valuable aspects of the conference, according to respondents, were the breakout sessions, keynote speakers, and opportunities to network (including the new Regional Roundtable Session). Breakout sessions were touted as diverse and extremely valuable. The keynote speakers were very well received, with comments such as "Best keynotes this year of all the years I've attended [the conference]," and "The keynotes were great! Three for three on these!" And, people loved the chance to network with colleagues from across the country. In particular, the Regional Roundtable Session was appreciated as a "great addition" to the conference.

Respondents, for the most part, felt that the conference was very worthwhile and informative. The most prominent comments, suggestions or complaints were:

- Respondents commented the most on the new Regional Roundtable Session.

Participants felt it was a very useful addition to the conference program, but had suggestions about how to organize and/or schedule the event. Most of the ideas offered focused on when to schedule it. Suggestions included offering it during the Saturday luncheon instead of a keynote speaker, or as an option on Sunday during the forums. Ideas for improvement focused on splitting the regions into smaller groups so that meaningful dialogue could take place.

The Regional Roundtable Session was a new addition to the NACCTEP conference schedule this year. We are pleased that so many people chose to participate in this networking event. Based upon your comments and suggestions, we will assess how to incorporate it into the 2010 conference schedule more effectively.

- Several respondents had suggestions regarding session scheduling. Some felt that too many sessions were offered at once, and that repeat sessions should be scheduled. Others indicated that a few longer sessions might be helpful for those presenters that need more time.

Saturday is the only day of breakout sessions and we want to provide attendees with as many resources as possible. It would be difficult to select which session(s) should be repeated or extended. Each attendee has a different outcome in mind for the conference; what might be of interest to one attendee may not be of interest to another. In addition, session presenters are also there for professional development and we want to provide them with the opportunity to attend other sessions. For this reason, we offer a full day of sessions on a variety of topics. We hope that you view having to decide among which of the many quality sessions to attend as a good problem. It means our membership is submitting many excellent proposals.

- Several respondents were unhappy with the choice of a casino as a conference venue.

Because NACCTEP partners with the League for Innovation in the Community College, which offers a much larger conference and makes facilities arrangements, we have no control over the choice of conference locations. We will, however, pass your concerns on to the League for their consideration.

- Suggested topics for breakout sessions included more technology-related sessions, the need for a diverse student population in teacher preparation programs, assessment, new media, and teaching/administering a teacher training program.

NACCTEP is always open to new and exciting topics for breakout sessions. If you know someone interested in presenting the above mentioned topics at the 2010 conference, please refer them to Pam Asti at pam.asti@domail.maricopa.edu.

- Other suggestions included reducing registration cost, beefing up the poster session, and recognizing volunteers for the hard work they do.

Unlike many organizations, NACCTEP has not raised its conference registration fee, which is comparable to the fees of similar conferences across the nation, since 2005. Given the current economic downturn, we will also not raise fees for the 2010 conference.

NACCTEP encourages all member colleges to consider participating in the poster session. This is an opportunity to promote your program and/or innovative ideas to a national audience. Exhibits can be on any teacher education-related project or program. Please consider participating in the poster session in 2010!

Every year we are indebted to our host colleges for providing such wonderful student volunteers to help us facilitate conference operations. Please be assured that we let them know how grateful we are in a variety of ways. However, per your suggestions, we will consider how else to recognize them. If attendees also feel that volunteers are an asset to the conference, please let them know.