

Heartland Community College
Faculty Best Practices Workshop
Thursday, August 12, 2010

Workshop Evaluation Survey Results n = 63 (out of an estimated 110 attendees)
(n=31 in Jan. '08, n=42 in Aug. '08, n=36 in Jan. '09, n=44 in Aug. '09, n=17 in Jan. '10)

Introduction: It is important to those who planned the August 2010 Best Practices Workshop to know how well various components of the workshop were received by participants. If you attended this workshop, planners want to have your feedback. Survey findings will guide decision-making for the next workshop. Please take just a few minutes to complete this online survey. Unless you pointedly reveal your name when answering an open-ended question, your input will be given anonymously.

For statements 1 - 4, please select the answer that most reflects your level of agreement.

SA = Strongly Agree A = Agree N = Neutral D = Disagree SD = Strongly Disagree

CONTENT

1. The Best Practices sessions were informative and helpful to those in attendance.
94% SA or A
2. The Best Practices sessions reinforced and confirmed my own beliefs and practices.
88% SA or A
3. The Best Practices sessions provided me with new information and insight.
86% SA or A
4. I will be able to use the information gained from Best Practices sessions.
87% SA or A

For questions 5 – 15 below, please select the answer that best reflects the sessions you attended and your level of agreement.

SA = Strongly Agree A = Agree N = Neutral
D = Disagree SD = Strongly Disagree DNA = Did not attend session

SPECIFIC SESSIONS

5. The opening plenary session presented by Heartland Community College faculty panelists regarding their insights about HCC Communication Learning Outcomes helped to clarify my thinking about ways to address and assess communication learning outcomes.
78% SA or A
6. The breakout session presented by several English, Math, and Reading faculty about effective strategies for employing good communication while guiding the learning of developmental students helped to clarify my thinking on this topic.
92% SA or A
7. The breakout session presented by several English, Tutoring and Testing, and Library faculty or staff about ways to improve student communication skills through process work and support services helped to clarify my thinking on this topic.
86% SA or A

8. The breakout session presented by a number of English, Biology, Communication, Nursing, Art, and Criminal Justice faculty about ways to facilitate good communication among all relevant parties when developing and implementing service learning components in courses helped to clarify my thinking on this topic.
83% SA or A
9. The breakout session presented by Disability Support Services staff helped me to better understand ways to create a positive, communicative climate for student disclosure regarding their situation and needs.
84% SA or A
10. The breakout session presented on the topic of teaching using non-violent communication practices provided me with helpful insights.
84% SA or A
11. The breakout session presented by ESL Programs and International Programs staff helped to clarify my thinking about effective ways to facilitate good communication with and among non-native students.
88% SA or A
12. The closing plenary session presented by John Hooker, Communication Department, Illinois State University helped to clarify my thinking about communication behaviors teachers can implement to reduce psychological distance between them and their students.
73% SA or A
13. The posters presented by various faculty and staff from Sociology, Political Science, Communication, English, and the Community Scholars Program helped me clarify my thinking about ways to facilitate communication and interaction between students and the community (in contexts of volunteerism, service learning, political engagement).
71% SA or A
14. The exhibits by various Heartland Community College academic/instructional support units provided me with helpful information that will improve my classroom teaching, my students' learning, and/or any classroom assessment studies I may undertake in the future.
68% SA or A

For statements 15 – 19 below, please select the answer that most reflects your level of agreement.

SA = Strongly Agree A = Agree N = Neutral D = Disagree SD = Strongly Disagree

DELIVERY

15. As a whole, the day's events were well organized.
99% SA or A
16. Overall, the day's events were well delivered.
92% SA or A

OVERALL SATISFACTION

17. Overall, the day was a good use of my time.
86% SA or A
18. In sum, I would recommend Best Practices to other colleagues.
85% SA or A
19. Taken in its entirety, Best Practices met my expectations.
88% SA or A

For questions 20 – 23 below, please provide further feedback about this and future Best Practices Workshop(s).

COMMENTS

Question 20: What did you like and/or find most useful about the day and why?

Alaina Winter's talk was inspiring. She was realistic about the issues with her style of teaching, but also told us about the rewards.

Seeing the dedication and enthusiasm of my colleagues. The new facility was beautiful and enhanced atmosphere.

The closing session was very good and well worth the time.

I enjoyed John Ernst's talk--it was new / current and somewhat controversial or challenging. John Hooker gave an engaging talk as well.

I really enjoyed the session on Disability Services.

Plenary speakers. Many ideas can apply to my teaching. First three were particularly cutting edge.

The presentations about new ways Generation M communicates.

Interaction with peers from various disciplines.

Clarified some info regarding assisting special students in my classes.

I very much enjoyed the presentations by John Ernst, Phil Vandiver, and Barb M-O. I thought they were interesting and provided me with new things to think about or ideas to implement. I enjoyed their styles of delivery as well as their content. Over all, I was engaged by their presentations and that's a rarity at these types of events for me, so thanks!

Discussing teaching-related issues with colleagues (including one that I hadn't met before).

Both Plenary sessions provided useful information.

ESL session was good but we needed to have a longer time frame to address the issues.

Networking with the presenters

The opening session-- all presenters gave some very interesting and thought provoking information about the changing face of our students.

Socializing with colleagues.

The breakout sessions I attended were interesting and helpful. Lunch was good

The presentations by Ernst, et al, gave me info that might help me understand the students that we teach today.

Learning about service learning projects. They were awesome!

As a new adjunct, I appreciated the chance to network and learn more about what is offered at Heartland.

Enjoyed the breakout sessions. Liked that we had the guest speaker after lunch and didn't add IT at 2p.

The topic and the individual presentations in the break-out sessions were timely and helpful.

Networking with colleagues.

The communication and teaching practices presented were very helpful. Meeting the HCC event organizers that represented some of the HCC departments was informative and inviting. Also the mingling aspect with other adjuncts was appreciated.

The opening session -- especially John Ernst's presentation.

I liked hearing from other parts of the college (and colleagues) that I don't usually see or interact with.

Interacting with colleagues about teaching and learning.

Alaina Winters' session.

The opportunity to get together with faculty from other departments. The break out on writing across the campus was very helpful.

I loved Alaina Winters's session on using NVC in the classroom.

The large-group presentations were generally well-done. However the room is terribly shaped for hosting a group. Why not use the big auditorium? You could rope off the back so that faculty would gather more closely together.

I LOVED the poster session. I find this format freeing!

Overviews of faculty projects are great!

The writing services and library, tutoring services information.

I appreciated the opportunity to hear my colleagues' insights and to share my own.

I enjoy meeting faculty from other divisions.

I loved communication as the topic!

Alaina Winters did a great job discussing how she runs her classroom and while I may not choose to use those methods exactly, it certainly did get me thinking about my classes.

Communicating with faculty I rarely get to see.

Meeting and collaborating with other faculty.

I thought the breakout sessions were most useful.

I liked Alaina's session as it helped me think through some of the practices I would like to develop. I also liked the first session with John, Phil, Nancy, and Barb. I liked seeing the different presentation styles; plus I got to hear some instructors I don't know well talk about their courses.

Question 21: What could have been done to improve this day, in particular, or what can be done to improve Best Practices Workshops, in general?

I don't have any good suggestions, but it would be great to find a way to get panelist to stick to their time limitations so that audience participation can happen.

One opening panelist did not abide by time limitations. Parts of panel presentation seemed condescending to me.

Although this is a small item, I didn't like the idea of only have rolls/donuts for the morning. I would have preferred something less fattening.

It's too long, especially right before classes start. Skip the afternoon speaker and have it end with lunch.

Get topics well ahead of time and have faculty sign up for them

I get annoyed by every speaker 'rushing' for delivery time and apologizing or explaining how they will speak fast or not take up our time (and this has been an issue at many presentations and meetings). To me, hearing a speaker say they won't take up much of my time implies that what they have to say is something I would rather not spend my time listening to because they think my 'valuable' time could be used better elsewhere. I get put off by that presumption. I am not forced to go to Best Practices. My hopes, although often unrealized, are always that each new speaker or activity will be one that will finally engage me. Today, that happened a lot and I am grateful to the speakers for that. I could have listened to more of what they had to say.

The Opening Plenary session had one individual in particular who ran way over time. I know this is not the fault of the planners nor do I hold the planners responsible. However, as a result of the opening session running over, there was not enough time for table discussion. I chose to sit at a table with others outside of my discipline so that I could learn a few things through table talk after the presentations. I was disappointed such talk did not take place. Hence, I would urge BP planners to let presenters know that they will be cut off if they run over. There are tactful ways of doing this--trust me; I've run a session or two in my lifetime. I understand the sensitivity involved in asking a presenter to present, but the simple fact is that in the professional world if you agree to present you are also agreeing to adhere to the parameters for your presentation set forth by the organization putting on the larger 'show.' The afternoon presenter WAS mindful of time and this was great because there was time for questions.

Please, no more ISU folks. Isn't there any other source of expertise in the area?

Have the opening and closing sessions in the auditorium. Rooms 2001-2002 were not really set up that well for that large of an audience and many faculty were without tables and the rest of us were tightly packed in which did not enhance the learning environment

Communicate expectations with the presenters. Goals vs promoting their study.

n/a

More external speakers (non-HCC)

Did not like the final presentation. It seemed very simplistic and common sense. Things I already knew. Therefore, it was boring.

I thought the BP was one of the better ones we have had.

Just a small thing -- Have catering offer more non-caffeinated drinks.

I thought the room was too small and a difficult layout for presentations. Missed fruit at breakfast, not all of us eat unhealthy donuts and muffins. Would liked to have seen at least a veggie tray at lunch. Missed soda at lunch.

More variety in breakout sessions.

Since this was my first one, I'm not sure what to add yet. I was pleased with the thoughtful, quality event of the day.

Nothing -- I thought this was the most well-organized Best Practices yet.

Not sure

Check technology before the presentation to save time.

I think they are good. Keep doing what you are doing.

Gathering room ended up being very close, on the edge of too small.

I understand that it's nice to be done by 2pm, but 8:25am is a very early start time. Also, I felt the lunch break could have been longer.

Timing is difficult for new faculty who could really use this time to prepare for the semester. I think an 8-noon format would be better than extending beyond lunch.

Different seating arrangements so folks did not have back to speaker.

I think it tries to do too much. The first presenters in the panel went too fast. Too many speakers for the time allowed. When there are so many speakers all trying to use a limited amount of time not only does the speaker feel rushed, but that carries over to the audience as well.

Please reconsider the high number in one session.

I'd like more application items - things that are ready to be implemented in classrooms, tips, tricks, etc.

I really like when faculty discuss what they are doing in their classrooms with specific examples on things like assignments, activities, assessment techniques, etc.

Have not considered.

Have a bigger room for the opening session.

I did not find the posters to be helpful.

Honestly, the day had some great sessions!

Question 22: Do you have any suggestions for topics for future Best Practices Workshops?

Ethics, maybe.

Not really--but I particularly enjoy when the sessions actually do focus on classroom best practices. Barb's talk was also strong in this area today.

Something on using Blackboard.

No need for outside speakers.

I'd like to see some ideas for how to best organize and manage administrative and other types of work besides classroom instruction. What are some best practices regarding keeping attendance and contacting absent students, managing a ton of grading, submitting forms, filing articles, deciding when to purge materials, keeping student files, etc.?

The so-called liberal bias in higher education. If it exists, is it actually a problem? If it is a problem, how do we identify it in our teaching and how do we address it? If it isn't a problem, how do we make clear to students that it isn't a problem?

1). Spirituality in the classroom. I don't mean religion here--I mean bringing a sense of wonder/love/compassion into the classroom in ways that encourage students to connect their learning to something larger. Pedagogical questions that are interesting include: can this be done ethically; can it be done without the implication of religion; will asking students to connect their learning to something deeper within themselves and/or their community improve the overall learning environment?? (And more, and more). I suspect the topic would be challenging. My response to the challenge is this: What a great way to start a semester, to challenge ourselves as much as we are about to challenge our students. 2). Pedagogical implications of ACEC. Hey! Suddenly we've got this building with conference rooms and an auditorium. How might instructors use ACEC in creative ways? For example—just to be crazy—how interesting that inter-disciplinary courses that all meet on TR say at 11 a.m. might think of putting together some kind of multi-disciplinary lecture or two that meets in

ACEC. How might we broaden our students' educational experience via this kind of multi-disciplinary approach? If this became a topic, there'd need to be more thought, but I wanted to reach outside of the box.

Use the auditorium.

Assessment.

Perhaps something focused specifically on assessment?

Would like to have a day where we are able to explore more about ourselves and how we impact our teaching, such as personality tests, how are learning styles affect how we teach, etc.

Preparing presentations for sharing with colleagues.

No.

It would be interesting to hear from people in Facilities, given all the changes we have going on around here.

Other GE learning outcomes...Diversity? Problem Solving?

Use a better-shaped room for the plenary sessions. Encourage breakout presenters to have faculty do something rather than simply present slides/lecture. It really isn't too short a time for a short activity or conversation.

How to value receptive forms of communication (listening, reading) as much as productive forms (speaking, writing) and ways to assess these forms.

Maybe topics on out of the box teaching techniques...podcasting, Eluminate for distance, faculty research findings.

It would be great to hear more about how communication is changing for our younger students. hyper-attention vs deep attention.

Team building across the divisions. Personal development- If the teacher is in a positive place then the student material/class will follow.

Discuss about topics that are relevant. Also about what to do in case of threats to the college. We should have a topic on this for the January session.

No.

More NVC/Compassionate Communication work, working with students to create policies, and assessments.

Question 23: Is there anything else you would like to tell the BP Planning Committee about this specific day or Best Practices in general?

Realizing food budget was cut, today's foods and beverages were okay.

Great work--it's always smooth, which is a testament to the team who organizes and pulls off the event.

Overall, I give it a thumbs up.

Thank you for a great event.

Nope. Thanks for your hard work. Oh, and I liked the new venue.

The ACEC was a great space in which to have the workshop. It's too bad, though, that some faculty just show up for the food and don't attend any sessions. (Very tacky!)

Great job! BP continues to amaze me. Thanks for your hard work. Yes--you can contact me to help with future events. Tom O. McCulley

Great job in presenting information about improving teaching and learning.

Thank you for a job well done.

Well done, very organized.

Thanks for the great work!

Nope.

John Hooker's presentation should have been a breakout session for new instructors. Pretty basic information for seasoned faculty.

The hospitality and food was a nice plus.

No.

Keep up the good work.

Good Work.

I couldn't answer the long page of questions - it was simply too much in that case.

The venue was perfect. At first, it seemed like it might be a little small, but the room size made the experience that much more intimate. Excellent job, committee!

Very nice job!!

Again, too many speaker in a tight time block.

Great job!

No.

Go through the crisis plan.

Thank you for the work you did. It was a very nice day.

Assessment Committee and Academic Standards Committee Recommendations for future:

- Continue to encourage presenters to design presentations that prompt audience interactivity/engagement
- Continue to design a program of presentations that offer practical strategies and techniques that are appropriate for possible immediate implementation
- Offer peer feedback to presenters when they come to practice session day before BP. For example, speech communication and/or English faculty could provide constructive suggestions.
- Consult Deans for suggestions about possible presenters.
- Advise speakers, including panelists, to avoid apologizing for time usage
- Think about feasibility/helpfulness of having Best Practices on a Tuesday.