

2008 Educator Conference

Summary of Results from Participant Exit Survey

On September 24, 2008, 103 people (including eight Skillpoint staff and three ESC staff) met at the Region XIII Education Service Center to participate in a 1-day education conference, “Ahead of the Curve: Preparing Students for the Future,” designed to provide educators with an opportunity to learn about projected job growth and the economic future of Central Texas and to explore effective strategies and tools to prepare students for postsecondary success. An overarching question for T-STEM 2013, a cohort with Skillpoint Alliance, was “How do the science, technology, engineering and math classes our students take in K-12 affect our economic future?” Breakout sessions focused on in-demand career and growth areas in Healthcare, Engineering, Digital Media, and Biotechnology.

Participants and presenters from the Central Texas region—including teachers, administrators, administrators and professors from postsecondary institutions, leaders of community organizations, and members of the business community—were invited to discuss, reflect on, and grapple with the question of how to bring about the kind of education system that prepares students to succeed in the global economy of the 21st century. Participant reactions and comments were collected via an exit survey that garnered both quantitative and narrative responses.

A summary of key findings from this survey follows:

- ❖ The aspects of the Colloquium that had the most impact (i.e., were mentioned most frequently) were the data/information/statistics presented, the resources described, and the economic projection.
- ❖ The largest number of participants intends to use share what they learned with colleagues, students, and others. Guiding/advising students, developing programs, and planning were also mentioned.
- ❖ Clearly, participants were engaged in the Conference. A number requested additional information, and several had suggestions for improving the Conference content and arrangements, e.g., repeating the breakout sessions so that participants could attend more than one.
- ❖ The overall rating for the Conference (on a scale where 1 was the lowest rating and 7 the highest) was 6.2. Ratings for presentations were high, ranging from 5.0 to 6.1, as were ratings of the breakout sessions, ranging from 5.3 (Biotech) to 6.4 (Engineering and Technology).
- ❖ Participants found the content presented valuable for various purposes and a variety of audiences—helping inform school district efforts in college/career preparation, in planning professional development, and in engaging with businesses (average ratings around 6.0).
- ❖ With an average rating of 6.6, participants expressed their approval of the location for the Conference. They also valued the content presented for

Full results from the Conference postsurvey are summarized in two documents, “2008 Educator Conference Participant Exit Survey Results” and “2008 Educator Conference Participant Exit Survey Comments.”