

IEA Training Assessment & Development Summit
Evaluation
July 30-31, 2009

Written Comments:

ESPN Activity

What aspects of the ESPN Activity worked well? (+)

- Information and sharing of ideas [4]
- Collaborative effort in data collection [2]; time for discussion at table
- Allowing everyone to give input [2] ; well organized; great exercise
- Individual brainstorming was helpful at establishing ideal characteristics
- Everyone's voice could be heard [2]
- It is a fast, effective method for collecting info
- Networking with others [3]; brainstorming followed by discussion
- The info gathering was useful.
- Interacting with others [3]
- Being able to see what other participants did; group discussion
- Small group; participation; round table discussions
- Listening to ideas generated by the group
- Brainstorming and providing input on an individual level and as a group
- Brainstorming of ideas/feedback
- Discussions
- Well structured to gather wide variety of opinion
- Did provide discussion and what appears to be positive results
- I'm sorry to be so negative. I didn't feel any of it was valuable. We could have had a 30-minute discussion and achieved the results -- letting staff know what we expect from conferences.
- Gave me a perspective of those 3 components
- Discussion time adequate
- Camaraderie was good
- Getting consensus with our table group
- Many ideas/thoughts thrown out (generated)
- Listening and sharing other's ideas
- Chance to think a bit; chance to share ideas
- Being able to talk with other locals
- Very organized; felt we had a say in what happens in the future.
- It got all the table informed
- Gathering lots of info from all people attending
- Gained insight from all over the state about what works and doesn't

What would have made the ESPN Activity more effective?

- Too much time given for the activity [7]; lots of "dead" time between rounds.
- Activity was too long and too complex

- Calmer instructions even when we don't have a lot of time.
- It seems to be a housekeeping task that could be done as a web conference ahead of time so the time at the conference could be used for a session.
- More written instructions; more large group discussion
- Should have moved much faster
- Too much time was wasted; directions were repeated even when we had done the same thing twice before.
- Make it shorter; the time allowed for each segment was too long.
- Less time explaining the process and more time doing, discussing
- Relax let us at it!
- Didn't need as much time; hard to hear all at table – room noisy
- The method of sorting out the top 5; time for sorting
- Give out all 3 envelopes/questions with directions – set a time limit to complete and let us loose. Then share as a large group.
- Faster pace
- Only if we hear the responses with detail was it worth the time. To have done this via e-mail earlier.
- Friday a.m. various sessions on technology preferred; Thursday afternoon structured somewhat differently.
- Doing it online or by mail
- I thought it was good as is
- Grouping similar ideas together and then ranking them.
- One person dominated
- Having 3 people up and down was sophomoric; toooo long; poorly explained and organized
- Stop after 1st go around
- Hated it! A waste of time!
- Took too long; could have been condensed to web; rambling; 1st day was very wasteful
- Seemed disorganized; first conference I attended, so I had no clue about some of the topics/problems
- Instructions weren't clear

New Presidents' School

What aspects of the New Presidents' School worked well?

- Visuals and written materials
- The session reinforced what I'm doing well; great handbook of handouts, PP presentations and tools
- Activities diversified; good presenters; PowerPoints – wish we had a CD though; handouts
- Diversity of info; ways to access additional info at home
- All
- A lot of information was disseminated
- Information on 1) grievance 2) effective meetings 3) building a strong local
- Resource material available electronically and in hard copy. Experienced trainers
- Having it!

- Great info; loved the areas that were covered. Answered a lot of my questions.
- That it was short and sweet and to the point; it also gave information and where to find it.
- Binder of specific handouts/materials [2]
- Presenters gave personal experiences
- Clear and concise
- Binder; website that will include the info [2]
- The info from presenters [3]
- Everything . . . I'm feeling overwhelmed!
- More precise than yesterday
- Trainers were very good in reassuring us we could do our job
- Presenters were extremely informative
- Being given information that is helpful and can be used as a reference
- Valuable resource book

What would have made the New Presidents' School more effective?

- More time [13]
- Obviously more time. That being said, the short time we had was used well.
- Add speakers to computer
- Lengthen the session into 1 – 1 ½ days. 3 hours is too short.
- More time to allow the processing of information and Q & A
- Just get down to business
- The room was much too cold. Also, more time would have been nice to network
- More time on the school and less time on the ice-breakers [3]
- Decide before training what bits would be covered from the 2 ½ day training.
- Need more time – 2 days [3]
- Specific information for certified vs. ESP

Training Delivery Fair

What aspects of the Training Delivery Fair worked well?

- All aspects were profitable and interesting [2]
- The individual sessions in meeting rooms were valuable. [2]
- The presentation from the UIS group was great!
- The 3 presentations by Arkadin, Skype, UIS; the group discussions were stimulating
- Networking and sharing with others [2]
- Being able to see some of the delivery examples in use
- Moving freely between booths
- The short sessions but I didn't get to all of them
- Breakout sessions on the social network sites, Skype [3], and Arkadin [2].
- Specific presenters of the tech products were very helpful
- The Skype presentation was informative
- Seeing what's available; networking
- Small sessions upstairs with a single focus [2]

- Some people were there to give you information and handouts
- Discussion Group “What if we blew it all up . . . ?”
- Variety of topics [2]
- I was free to look at only what I was interested in.
- Current and relevant technologies [2]
- Presenters were well informed.

What training delivery options do you think were missing?

- There are so many options available these days it would have been useful to have a document or brief presentation on the whys & wheres of each.
- Skype needed to show basics: how to get it? (downloading); How to connect to people? Costs? Computer capacity needed.
- Too much time devoted to fair
- Some of the trainers need more experience
- Why was CTA there?
- More time to attend all sessions [2]
- Some of it was [useful] I only attended the 1st half (session #1) . It would have been better to have a classroom computer environment for several of these.
- Need to have both parts on same floor
- Substance
- Not sure
- We didn’t seem to know what we were doing. Not sure that I learned much from this part.
- Possibly webinars
- Information as to where to go and when was not there or not clear; some of the fair presentations were better organized than some – there was no one there and/or no handouts
- Website hosting; c-venting; IEA Buddy editor . . . otherwise
- Not enough people “manning” all the tables
- Didn’t have access to computer so I could try it myself
- Didn’t know where to be and when – print in program more details and break-down of times.
- More handouts or information to take back to local.
- Everything in my opinion was covered
- I didn’t have time to visit everything I wanted
- Mobile Communicating – Smartphone, iPhone, iPod, touch applications
- Do more like [Discussion Group “What if we blew it all up?”] Record the many ideas to use and try; survey regarding conference and training needs.
- Buddy Editor
- I would have liked an in-service on creating a survey.
- Explanation was confusing; an agenda and fair description should have been sent out ahead of time.
- Hands on experience

Please share your thoughts or make any comments regarding your experience attending the Training Assessment & Development Summit:

- I felt much more relaxed on upcoming activities; I have more ideas for the association this year.
- I enjoyed participating in the “Blow it Up” group

- Do a “new leader” conference in late spring early summer; separate “conference review” for non-new people
- The post-fair Discussion Groups – mostly, it provided a chance to give focused input and to hear other’s opinions. I was struck by the weakness of the afternoon session on Thursday and the strength on Friday. It is always challenging to prepare and hold a conference. I want my in-conference time to be used effectively. I attend to work hard and then have some time to socialize.
- I feel you were eliciting information from us but you already know the answers and what you plan to do anyway.
- Only if we get the results and they are implemented. One of the best I have attended.
- There should have been more sessions. The ESPN activity was done way ahead of time, and then they just did some filler. Much more could have been fit the entire conference.
- I did not feel this summit was well organized.
- As a local president in only my 2nd year, I didn’t have much to offer – but I appreciate the thought and process IEA puts into evaluating our training options.
- Hearing other stories and being with a group in my position
- This summit enabled an opportunity to network with other members/officers. Thank you IEA staff for all of your hard work!
- Very well organized for the first time I attended
- The new presidents’ school needed to be longer!
- It would be nice to hear the results of this conference’s recommendation.
- Thank you for paying for the hotel or I would not have come, because my Association only has 32 members and is too small to fund this for me.
- This was my first conference. The first day’s activities I thought could have been condensed. The second day’s activities were educational and relevant. I took ideas from the new presidents’ school with me.
- More specific description of sessions prior to the conference; specific handouts with hands on activities on both days; more efficient use of time (the first day)
- Training Delivery Fair needs to be done for Board perhaps on a Saturday afternoon after Board Meeting.
- Already given – in depth – to Cindy in your committee. Thanks!
- I got lots of new ideas. Enjoyed the opportunity to see what was available on the internet. I attended SKYPE, social networking, Arkadin. Hopefully I can take these ideas back to our group.
- It was generally good, but here seemed to be extra time available that might have been put to better use. Adding a few more items to the program agenda would have been helpful. All in all, I enjoyed and understand the need of this summit to see and develop the future of IEA conferences. I really do miss not having the SLA this summer. For me it’s always been a very positive and worthwhile experience. Thanks for all of your continued hard work on behalf of your membership 😊
- Excellent means for getting input – well done!
- Very helpful – hope for better conferences
- I felt that the discussions concerning the types and relevancy of trainings were extremely effective. The networking with other presidents was important.
- Training styles – Large local conference; statewide – all; small local conference; Collective Bargaining only; Professional Development only; combo (small scale)

- Conference was a good idea to gather information on where IEA goes with future conferences. Discussion Groups on Friday morning could have been more organized. They did serve a purpose but just need a little more structure.
- Nice mix of getting input from me and offering me new information.
- Information, sharing ideas, meeting new members and reconnecting with older members.
- SKYPE is great tool – presenter did not know SKYPE. Presenters should know the “ins and outs” of whatever they are presenting. Include a “how to” download, set up, and troubleshoot programs (SKYPE). Needed – applications and their use for Smartphones, iPhone, iPod Touch.
- Overall post fair discussion group was interesting and informative
- I attended the Board retreat
- Do a survey – here – of us regarding training needs and conference wishes and needs
- Too much down time for Presidents with experience on Friday; Too much technology will cause loss of 1:1 personal contact – down numbers in unions.
- Would like to have had more small group breakout sessions with board members or UDs; more time to interact on a task rather than around a process.
- We discussed the topic very thoroughly during the first group, so never got to another group. But it gave them lots of ideas!
- I hope that the information gathered here will help IEA present meaningful conferences/workshops for its members. Good luck.
- The hotel was great. The rooms were very nice. The first session only Friday could have been done in one hour. The time would have been better utilized if we could have networked with others. Also if we were placed according to our regions or according to size so that we could discuss issues that concern our locals.
- Eating and training should be separate; we should train in mornings to allow moving around and learning before eating and socializing; socializing is important; very hard to move around with all our supplies we’ve collected and dishes and food.
- Thank you to all who made this an effective summit
- If we have to change to only one yearly conference – statewide, I think this is the one. Including board retreat, presidents’ training and GPAs at the same location would be great. The dinner together and lunch was also a good opportunity to get to know people. I appreciate when we engage our leaders in visionary thinking. The World Café experience – Environmental Scan was a good exercise. Thank you, K. Valenti Region 59. P.S. It is a great idea to include all stakeholders that gave input in any summary info.
- I think the ways the sessions were held and the data was collected were fun, innovative and engaging. Thank you!
- I was a bit dismayed at how quickly the dinner buffet was cleared with no warning. I missed the bottled water at the board meeting. I appreciated the updates on what’s to come with race to the top.
- Need – Institutionalize yearly President School; School for VP