

2010 Summer Institute Post-Conference Survey Summary

The following is a summary of the feedback received from Summer Institute participants in the individual session surveys and in the overall conference survey. Overall survey results are available upon request, with individual session results being available for each session's presenters. The following observations were made based on the overall surveys (n = 36), and the individual session surveys:

- 98 participants attended all or part of the Summer Institute. Monday represented the largest single day with 85 participants.
- The largest group in each of the individual sessions defined themselves as “child welfare workers.”
- Other attendees included students, school social workers, educators, community members, therapists, and elders.
- 98% of participants reported being very satisfied or satisfied with this year's presenters.
- Participants reported at least 90% satisfaction with registration, relevance of content, organization of the event, and the UMD staff. The registration process and evening activities were the highest rated items.
- Summer Institute Handouts were the only item that received less than 90% satisfaction among participants. Multiple individuals noted that they would have liked power point handouts available on sight¹.
- Many of the attendees noted that the conference rooms were too cold.
- Overall, participants thought the sessions were well done, and enjoyed the presenters. In all cases the majority of attendees were satisfied or very satisfied with the content.
- Many of the attendees felt that presenters could engage the audience more, do less “reading from the power point” and encourage more interaction.
- In general, attendees felt that the Summer Institute “ran smoothly” and that they would recommend the Institute to others.
- 97% of participants said that they would recommend the Summer Institute to others.
- Presentations by Larry Jourdain, Michael Dahl, and Terry Cross were most frequently mentioned as memorable by attendees although many other speakers were highlighted. Some attendees suggested giving Larry Jourdain time to present earlier in the week in coming years to “set the stage.”
- While some attendees were encouraged by the amount of students, some attendees expressed frustration at the amount of them at this year's Institute. One respondent suggested a lottery system for students in future years.
- Having booths for Tribes to describe their programs and services was suggested for next year.
- Some participants were frustrated with individuals coming into sessions late and interrupting presentations.
- Some suggested that a more flexible schedule that allowed for a later start after lunch if the pre-lunch presentation ran late might be helpful.
- The sweat lodge was routinely brought up as an impactful experience.

¹ These handouts have been placed on the UMD Center for Regional and Tribal Child Welfare Studies website for printing or viewing along with videos of the presentations: <http://www.d.umn.edu/sw/cw/SummerInstitute.html>

- Suggestions for future Summer Institutes included:
 - Home visiting
 - More interaction with elders
 - Teen parenting
 - Suicide
 - Sexual assault
 - More “hands on” sessions
 - Experiences of adopted youth
 - Continuing information and activities grounded in Ojibwe culture

If you have additional feedback on the Summer Institute that you would like to share, please feel free to contact us via email at: jheyten@d.umn.edu