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Northwest Ohio Center for Excellence in STEM Education

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This report describes the implementation of the 2014 Community Resources Workshop as well as the perceptions of the workshop participants regarding the quality and impact of the workshop. The report begins with a brief description of the 2014 Community Resources Workshop followed by a summary of the evaluation procedures. The report continues by outlining and explaining the findings from the evaluation, and ends with a summary of the findings and recommendations for future workshops.

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES WORKSHOP

The Community Resources Workshop (CRW) is a one-week summer professional development program that has been implemented in Toledo since 1998. The main objectives of the CRW are to make teachers more aware of and familiar with local educational resources in the community, for the ultimate purpose of increasing the teachers' use of community resources in their classroom. The central purpose of the CRW is to improve the educational experience of local teachers and students, but the workshop can benefit community organizations as well. If teachers are shown the educational value that exists in their community organizations, they may be more likely to use the community resources in their classrooms, which will improve student learning while also providing funds for the community organizations to continue their missions. During the CRW, participants visit several community organizations to learn about and engage in educational activities and resources that are offered by the partnering community organizations. For more information, visit www.nwocenter.org/CRW/CRWhome.htm.

The 2014 CRW was implemented June 16 – 20, during which teachers visited the Franciscan Center at Lourdes University, Wildwood Metropark, Imagination Station, WGTE Public Media, The Toledo Zoo, Toledo Museum of Art, the Challenger Learning Center, Fifth Third Field (of the Toledo Mud Hens), the Blade, the Valentine Theater, and the Toledo Public Library. In addition, the teachers were engaged in presentations by Nature's Nursery, Toledo GROWs, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Scrap 4 Art, Sauder Village, Toledo Botanical Garden, and the Downtown Walking Tour.

Twenty-four educators attended the 2014 CRW. Most of the teachers were regular education teachers, but one reported being an administrator, and another reported being a ESL Specialist. The teachers mostly taught all core subjects in the elementary grades (preK-6), but there were a wide variety of grades and subjects taught among the attending teachers. The participants represented fourteen public school districts in northwest Ohio as well several private schools, including Diocesan schools. The table below contains some descriptive information about the 2014 CRW participants. (Not all participants provided information for each category.)

		# Teachers
	PreK – 2	6
	3-5	7
Grades Taught	6 – 8	4
	9 – 12	2
	Other	7
	All Subjects	7
	Language Arts (including Reading and English)	13
Subjects Taught*	Science	11
	Math	9
	Social Studies	9
	Other	11

^{*} Many teachers reported teaching more than one subject

When asked how they learned about the CRW, 66.6% (18) reported hearing from a friend or colleague, while a further 22.2% (6) of the attendees cited e-mail communications from NWO/BGSU. An additional 3.7% (1) reported learning about the CRW from multiple other sources including Flyers and the CRW website. The table below contains data for all responses to this question.

	# Teachers
E-mail	6
Friend, Family member, Colleague	18
Received/Saw a flyer or brochure	1
Visited the CRW website	1
Other	1

When asked about the main reasons for attending the workshop, many teachers (25.9%, 7) reported wanting to learn about resources to use in their classrooms, especially related to inquiry-based learning and the new standards. Teachers were similarly concerned (33.3%, 9) with obtaining contact hours/CEUs and graduate credit.

EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES WORKSHOP

The evaluation of the 2014 Community Resources Workshop was guided by the following questions:

- What are the participants perceptions regarding the quality/value of the workshop?
- 2 How do the participants' awareness of community resources change as a result of the workshop?
- 3 How do the participants' attitudes toward the use of community resources in their classroom change as a result of the workshop?
- 4 How do the participants' perceptions about the use of community resources in their classroom change as result of the workshop?

In order to answer these evaluation questions, data were collected from 25 participants using the Community Resources Workshop Evaluation Survey, which was administered online on the last day of the workshop. The survey consists of 22 items that measured teachers' perceptions of the quality of the workshop as well as the impact the workshop had on the teachers' awareness of and attitudes toward community resources. The impact questions asked

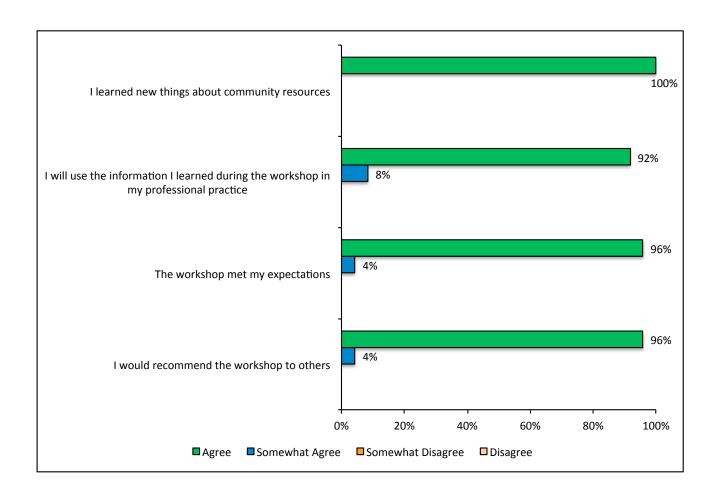


teachers to rate their opinions twice: once to represent their opinion at the end of the CRW and another to represent their opinion as it was before the CRW, resulting in a measure of self-reported change. In addition, the survey asked teachers to estimate their monthly use of community resources during the last school year (2013-2014), and then to estimate their monthly use of community resources for the following school year (2014-2015). See Appendix A for the 2014 Community Resources Workshop Evaluation Survey.

EVALUATION FINDINGS

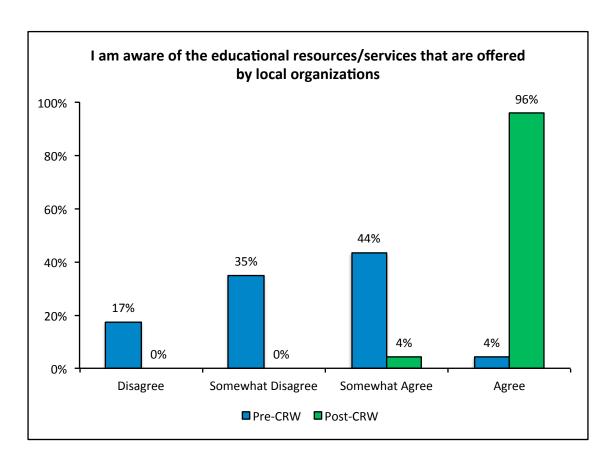
What are the participants perceptions regarding the quality/value of the workshop?

The participants were asked to rate their level of agreement/disagreement for four statements regarding the quality/value of the workshop. **Overall, the participants' responses indicated that the participants perceived the workshop to be highly valuable**. More than 90% of the participants agreed with each of the four statements, and 92% of participants agreed with all four of the statements. The figure below illustrates the participants' responses (n=24) to each of the four statements.



How does the participants' awareness of community resources change as a result of the workshop?

The participants to were asked to rate their level of agreement/disagreement for the following statement: "I am aware of the educational resources/services that are offered by local organizations". The participants gave two responses for this statement – one to represent their opinion at the end of the CRW and another to represent their opinion as it was before the CRW. A Wilcoxon test¹ was conducted to evaluate whether the participants' awareness significantly changed as a result of the CRW. The results indicated that teachers were significantly more aware of community resources after the CRW, z = -4.08, p < .001. In fact, 22 of 24 participants indicated they were more aware of community resources after the CRW. The figure below illustrates the participants' responses.



¹ A Wilcoxon test determines if the median score of one set of numbers is statistically different than the median score of a related set of numbers. In this case, the Wilcoxon test determined if attendees' median post-workshop awareness score was significantly different than their median pre-workshop awareness score.



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Teachers' written responses provided further support of the findings above. Many teachers reported learning about new resources or services of which they were unaware before the workshop. Some teachers reported learning about new resources in the Toledo area. According to three teachers:

I am overwhelmed at the amount of resources learned about in this week. I didn't realize there were so many out there right here in the heart of Toledo.

I loved this Workshop! I learned about a ton of different options available so close to home.

I enjoyed attending this workshop. I have lived in the Toledo area my entire life and didn't realize how many wonderful resources were in my own backyard.

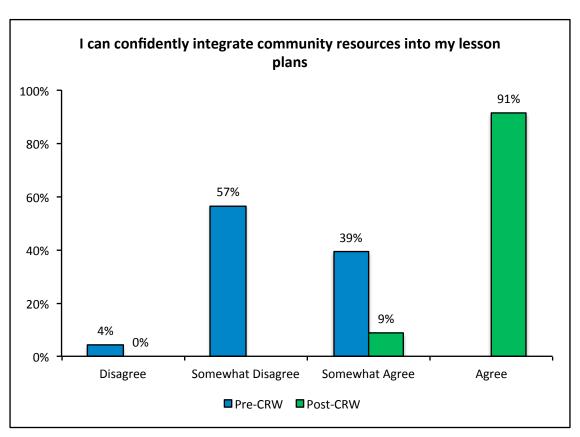
Other teachers cited the presenters themselves as highly influential in terms of providing a wealth of information about the various local resources in the area. Some of the teachers wrote:

The WTGE was helpful since the presenter had us use different devices and use the apps.

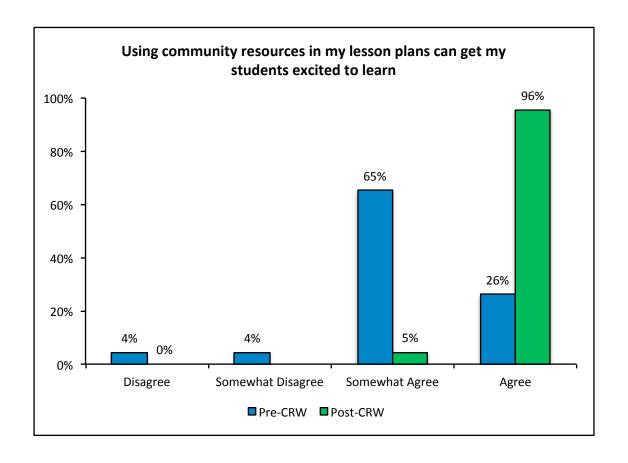
The presenters were very enthusiastic and kept your interest!

How do the participants' attitudes toward the use of community resources in their classroom change as a result of the workshop?

The participants to were asked to rate their level of agreement/disagreement for the following statements: "I can confidently integrate community resources into my lesson plans" and "Using community resources in my lesson plans can get my students excited to learn". The participants gave two responses for these statements – one to represent their opinion at the end of the CRW and another to represent their opinion as it was before the CRW. The results of two Wilcoxon tests indicated that participants were significantly more confident after the workshop in integrating community resources into their lesson plans (z = -4.01, p < .001), and significantly improved their attitudes regarding the extent to which community resources can get their students excited to learn (z = -3.68, p = .001). In fact, 22 of 24 participants improved their attitudes about integrating resources, and 15 of 24 participants improved their attitudes about resources and student excitement. The figures below illustrate the participants' responses.

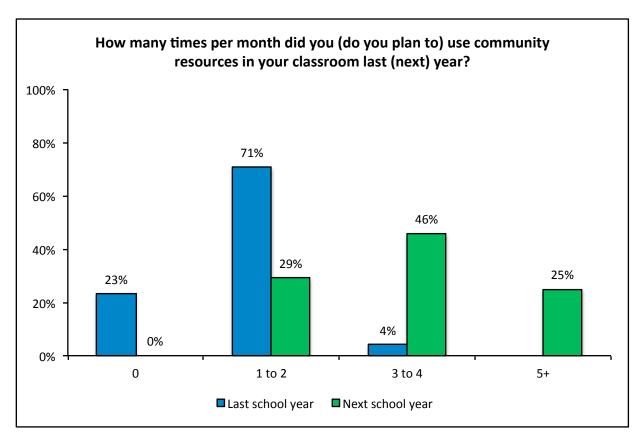






How do the participants' perceptions about the use of community resources in their classroom change as result of the workshop?

Participants were asked to approximate the number of times per month (0, 1-2, 3-4, or 5+) they used community resources in their classroom during the last year, and the number of times per month they planned on using community resources in their classroom the following year. A Wilcoxon test was conducted to see if the number of times predicted for the following year were different from the number of times approximated for the last year. The results indicated that the number of times predicted for the following year was significantly higher than the number of times approximated for the last year, z = -3.93, p < .001. In fact, 20 of 24 participants predicted they would use community resources more the following year than they did the previous year. The figure below illustrates the participants' responses regarding their use of community resources in their classroom.



The teachers were also asked to list: 1) what community resources they used most often last year, 2) the ways that they generally used community resources during the previous school year, and 3) the ways that they plan on using community resources during the next school year. Teachers reported using the Toledo Public Library most often during the last school year. In addition, teachers also claimed they generally used external resources as field trip destinations. Several teachers also reported having speakers come to their classrooms. Most of the teachers' responses to the "plans for next year" question were more in depth and multifaceted than the responses to the "resources during the last school year" question, indicating an increase in the teachers' knowledge of community resources. The "plans for next year" responses also seemed to suggest that teachers were more aware of resources that could be brought into their classrooms. While many teachers still planned to use the resources as field trip destinations, many more teachers indicated their plans to bring the resources into their classrooms and use the online resources available to them through the community partners' websites.

Related to the findings above, many teachers also wrote about the value and applicability of the workshop to their classroom instruction. Three of the teachers wrote:

I will be able to better expand classroom discussions on careers after meeting such dynamic people from each venue.

Take advantage of more online resources we learned about as well as visiting locations.

Due to distance and lack of funding I plan to use the resources heavily and take advantage of the free outreach programs.

EVALUATION SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the Community Resources Workshop Evaluation Survey demonstrate that participants perceived the workshop to be of high quality and highly valuable. The findings also indicate that as a result of attending the CRW, participants were significantly more aware of community resources, held more positive attitudes regarding the use of community resources in their classroom, and planned to increase their use of community resources in their classroom. The most prominent outcome was the participants' self-reported change regarding their awareness of community resources. Overall, comments given by participants regarding the CRW were extremely positive. (See Appendix B for the 2014 CRW teachers' comments organized by survey question.) Many of the teachers specifically wrote positive comments regarding the value and applicability of the resources to their classroom. Some of the teachers wrote:

Overall I think that this experience has been EXTREMELY valuable to me professionally and personally.

I loved this workshop! I learned about tons of different options available so close to home.

This was an amazing workshop. Everyday was full of new resources and ideas. I can't wait to re-evaluate all the resources and start integrating them into my lessons.



Recommendation: Less Resources Per Day

While teacher perception of the workshop was excellent overall, many felt that they would have benefitted from more time at very locations, specifically the Challenger and Art museum. Some teachers wrote:

Not sure if it's possible, but would really like to spend more time at the Challenger, Art Museum. Both seemed rushed.

Would liked to have had more time at the Challenger Learning center.

Some teachers offered suggestions they felt might improve the workshop. One teacher suggested splitting the workshop into three parts (Spring, Summer, Fall) to improve teacher exposure to the resources. Another suggested that the Toledo Blade activities be done on another day besides Friday as the press machines were not running.

Recommendation: Continue hands-on learning activities / Reevaluate times

Teachers seemed to thoroughly enjoy all of the hands on learning activities offered by the programs as well as being introduced to a multitude of resources for their classrooms. If possible the time slots for activities should be reevaluated based on the complexity and general length of the activity. Many teachers felt they were rushed through activities like the Challenger and Library while they perceived others as having too much time for their content (Mudhens). Additionally, many teachers claimed that if new activities were to be offered in subsequent years they would continue to attend the workshop. A long-term rotation of some of the activities might be beneficial in terms of bringing teachers back every year.

APPENDIX A: 2014 CRW EVALUATION SURVEY

Thank you for attending the 2014 Community Resources Workshop! We hope you had a wonderful time, and found some value in the week's activities. Now that the workshop is over, it's a perfect time to reflect on what you've done, and continue to make meaning out of your experience.

res stre opi yea ass you	ease take five minutes to take a short survey about your experience during the CRW. Your sponses on this survey are VERY important in that they allow the CRW Committee to understand the engths and weaknesses of the workshop so it can be improved in future years. Collecting your inions about the workshop can also help secure funding so the workshop can be continued for ears to come. You will not be asked to provide any specific identifying information, so please be sured that you responses will remain anonymous. If you would like a contact hours certificate for our participation this week, you will have the opportunity to request one after you complete the survey anks in advance for your cooperation!
1. V	What is your current position? (Choose one.)
0	Counselor
0	Media Specialist
0	Administrator
0	Teacher
0	Other (please specify)
If yo	u are a teacher, please answer the next three questions. If you are not a teacher, please skip to question 5.
2. /	Are you a special education teacher? (e.g., Gifted, Intervention Specialist)
0	Yes
0	No
3. V	What grade level(s) do you teach? (Choose all that apply).
	PreK to 2
	3 to 5
	6 to 8
	9 to 12
	Other (please specify)

201 _°	4 Community Resources Workshop Evaluation
4. \	What subject(s) do you teach? (Choose all that apply.)
	Language Arts (e.g., Reading, Writing, English, Literature)
	Mathematics
	Science
	Social Studies (e.g., History, Citizenship/Government)
	Other (please specify)
5. I	How did you learn about this workshop? (Choose all that apply.)
	Received an e-mail from the Northwest Ohio Center of Excellence in STEM Education
	Told by a friend, family member, or colleague (in person or via e-mail)
	Received or saw a flyer or brochure
	Visited the CRW website
	Other (please specify)

P	lease	Tell	Us	About	Your \	Week
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	t Your Week			
Please answer the follo	owing questions	about the 2014 Com	munity Resources	Workshop.
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7. I learned new thing		_		•
Disagree	Somewhat I	Disagree Some	what Agree	Agree
8. I will use the inform	nation I learne	d during the worksh	op in my profess	ional practice.
Disagree	Somewhat I	Disagree Some	what Agree	Agree
O	O		0	O
9. The workshop met	my expectation	ons.		
Disagree	Somewhat I	Disagree Some	what Agree	Agree
0	0		0	0
10. I would recomme	nd the worksh	on to others.		
Disagree	Somewhat I	•	what Agree	Agree
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-	presents your opini	ion TODAY.		
choose the category that re	presents your opini	ion TODAY.		
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11. I am aware of the organizations. Before the Workshop Today	presents your opinion educational results agree	sources/services the Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree
11. I am aware of the organizations. Before the Workshop Today 12. I can confidently	presents your opinion educational results provided the control of	sources/services the Somewhat Disagree C munity resources in Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree C to my lesson plan Somewhat Agree	Agree O Agree Agree Agree
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Use of Community Resources

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14. Approximately how many times per month did you use community resources in your classroom <u>last</u> school year?
© 0
© 1 to 2
© 3 to 4
© 5+
15. What community resources did you use most often last school year?
16. In what ways did you generally use community resources last school year?
17. How many times per month do you plan on using community resources in your classroom <u>next</u> school year?
© 0
O 1 to 2
C 3 to 4
O 5+
18. What community resources are you planning to use next school year?

2	2014 Community Resources Workshop Evaluation
	19. In what ways are you planning to use community resources next year?
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Perceptions of the 2014 CRW

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20. Please write abou about the workshop (value and/or applicab	good or bad – we	e want to know	!) and your pe	rceptions abo	
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			~		
21. What was the mos	t useful aspect o	of the workshop	o? Please prov	ide an explan	ation.
			~		
)2 Haw aan wa imme		ntont of this w			
22. How can we impro	ove/modify the co	ontent of this w	orksnop?		
hanks for your cooperation elow to request your certific ontact information. Be assu	ate. You will be taken	to a different survey	y where you will b	e asked to provide	some

APPENDIX B: 2014 CRW PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

Please write about your perceptions of the workshop. You can include comments about the workshop (good or bad – we want to know!) and your perceptions about the value and/or applicability of the information presented during the workshop.

- I loved this workshop! I learned about a ton of different options available so close to home. I also enjoyed going to places that I didn't think would be suitable for my grade level and finding out how they actually can make trip relevant for my students.
- I enjoyed attending this workshop. I have lived in the Toledo area my entire life and didn't realize how many wonderful resources were in my own backyard.
- Thank you! I can not say enough about the week! It was beyond my expectations! I am more excited now about teaching then I've been in many years! Thank you! The presenters were enthusiastic, generous, and just the nicest people who all took very good care of us.
- I loved the workshops. They energized me as a teacher. I also felt they helped me to look at the Toledo area in a better way. The presenters were more than helpful and were engaging and infectious! I wasn't thrilled with the Planetarium, but that isn't my thing. I did decide to look positively as it was a way for someone there to help me teach something that I was uncomfortable with.
- The information is phenomenal! Each aspect of the week was valuable and presented in an entertaining way.
- I think this workshop was well worth the time. It was chock full of information and experiences. It will definitely enhance student learning. I liked how it integrated our common core standards. I would recommend this workshop to all teachers.
- I really enjoyed the workshop overall. I was actually surprised by organizations that I prejudged ahead of time and later found them to be the most valuable. (I am embarrassed to say that I was not looking forward to the Toledo Art Museum.) I was so impressed with the guides, the activities they facilitated, and the way they aligned those activities to the CCSS.
- The workshop was very good. However, some of the venues we were shown, are too far to travel. The ideas are great and will be helpful to seek out in our area.
- Overall I think that this experience was EXTREMELY valuable to me professionally and personally. The networking opportunities, the fresh experiences, and the connections with community members and services was AMAZING!!!! Thank you!!!!
- Learned something every day
- I really enjoyed everyday . I love the art muesum and the zoo.
- My perception of the workshop was very valuable. There was a plethora of knowledge shared.
- I gained knowledge and insight in many areas that I do not teach. I will be able to integrate so msnyvof these into my lessons! I loved this workshop over all!
- WOW....the enthusiasm of everyone was tremendous! This week totally EXCEEDED my expectations!
- I am overwhelmed at the amount of resources learned about in this week. I didn't realize there were so many out there right here in the heart of Toledo . There were only a few parts that I felt weren't useful including the radio guy at Challenger and the Ottawa wildlife refuge speech. The rest, well simply outstanding!
- This was definitely one of the best workshops I have participated in. I really liked how every place we went had a hands on activity or an on line activity available.
- I truly enjoyed the workshop! However I attended last year and much of the information was the same as last year. It would be nice to change it up a little more as info shared at the different places so educators could attend each year!

- I appreciated all of the speakers who took the time to speak to us. I do not see the relevance of
 the information from the Green Ribbon Initiative, the Ottawa National Refuge and the tour of
 downtown Toledo.
- It was more exciting and informative than I thought.
- The workshop was very valuable. I typically go to Columbus, but plan to use Toledo resources also. All the presenters were so excited about part of the workshop which transferred to us as participants.
- Overall, all locations were well prepared for our visit and provided wonderful resources.
- The workshop is awesome. The places were fabulous. The days were a little long maybe 9-3 would be better; but I don't know what would be taken out. Suggestion Do not do a field trip to The Blade on Friday they are not working on production on that day, in preparation of the weekend.
- Every location did a great job at connecting activities to all levels and content areas.
- This was an amazing workshop. Everyday was full of new resources and ideas. I can't wait to re-evaluate all the resources and start integrating them into my lessons.

What was the most useful aspect of the workshop? Please provide an explanation.

- I enjoyed all of the hands on activities.
- · Lots of hands on activities.
- For me, being exposed to so many different resources that could each, individually, be used in so many subject areas across the curriculum.
- I loved the Art museum, but they all were so helpful by providing the standards that they hit!
- It's hard to choose the most useful aspect of this workshop. I guess the collaboration among peers was very valuable as well as ALL the information I learned about NW Ohio!
- The most useful aspect of this workshop was knowing how much information is available and how willing each venue was to share their resources. It was helpful to know costs of things and certainly worthwhile knowing how much of the resources are free to schools.
- I will most likely use resources from The Blade, The Toledo Library, The Toledo Museum of Art, the dance leader on Day #1 at Lourdes, and possibly Scrap 4 Art.
- The WTGE was helpful since the presenter had us use the different devices and use the apps. Really liked the Imagination Station science experiments. The hands on exploration was very good and fun!
- Most useful was all of the materials that will link me to future services and information. E media resources and technology connections will be most treasured. Thank you too for bringing in so many extra people to use...and for their materials.
- Getting to do activities
- Using a painting and one word to describe it. All the resources at wgte, basically everything.
- I believe the different avenues to utilize the information is the most useful.
- The presenters were very enthusiastic and kept your interest!
- Gosh.....it is difficult to choose....working with Tom Evert was right up there, along with the Toledo Museum. The Toledo Library is and also has been a valuable resource for me.
- I liked all of the online resources we learned about. I also liked the Challenger learning center. I am always in the Oregon area and NEVER knew it was there!

- The most useful aspect of the workshop was was receiving all of the materials and websites to access the activities.
- Learning about the different resources available in our area.
- The most useful resources were the workshop with Tom Evert, Toledo Museum of Art, The Blad and Toledo Museum of Art because they have resources available online to use in the classroom and it's a great, educational field trip for students.
- I pretty much think all.
- The fact that almost everything we did was able to be tied to common core standards.
- I was made aware of many more opportunities that our school could use for field trips, teacher resources, and services available.
- Art pictures for writing activities NIE- newspapers in education library pictures of downtown Toledo for my Social Studies activities for the history of Toledo
- The access to free resources and the media internet resources
- The variety of resources.

How can we improve/modify the content of this workshop?

- I would've preferred to be talked at less. Some of the presenters could have just had papers sent instead of actual presentations.
- Nothing. I loved it!!!!
- I'm sorry to say, the least amount of information I got was from the Mud Hens. They were very kind, but he spoke for about 5 minutes and then there was a tour, which I didn't really understand for and that was it. I really loved the speakers from Nature's Nursery and TBG, but I could have done without the Mud Hens. Sorry. I would have also loved to hear from the Great Lakes Museum. Sad to have missed them. I do thinks the days were very long and sometimes we were on information overload.
- Don't stop this workshop and keep promoting NW, Ohio!
- I wouldn't change a thing.
- The content was excellent! There was an overabundance of items to learn. Every minute was used.
- There were a couple of presenters that I felt were there more for the "plug" rather than he or she offering ways to utilize their resources. I was not impressed with the man who shared at the Challenger Center who talked about radio frequency waves. He was nice, but it was not very applicable.
- The Challenger Learning Center really needs more time. I felt very rushed and uneasy with the Mini Mission. Very Good workshop. Thanks!
- Challenger leader was amazing with content objectives at Lourdes...but at the Center their program came across as disordered and confusing. The staff was inconsistent among themselves. Strange meetings. Also, some of the teachers were VERY uncomfortable in the star lab...claustrophobic!! The Lucas County Library breakfast left many people hungry. The Blade tour was odd. Several people there were just strange...one man stared at us the entire time we were in the writers area. The main spaces were filthy...ink aside. They also are not typically running on a Friday and suggested we come back on a different day. It would have been nice to have someone in a leadership role that stayed with the group even if there was a rotation.

- It was great!
- I believe the workshop is great just the way it is!
- Would liked to have had more time at Challenger Learning Center
- Don't sit so long? On Friday we sat too much!
- You can improve/modify the content of the workshop by adding or having a Part II workshop. Maybe have part I in the fall and part II in the summer. Maybe add a part III in the winter. Focusing on more resources available to teachers and classroom activities.
- We could go to same places just teach different activities than the Year before. I had already done the geometry dancing many of the apps taught were the same the zoo did same turtle activity, some activities were different but many the same!
- Some of the places we went, like the Challenger Learning Center, are great for field trips, but there's very little information or resources we can use in our classroom. It's so nice to have materials to use in the classroom. I also feel that lecturing is NOT the way to turn students or teachers on to a topic. Some presenters were MUCH better than others at hands-on activities to get us excited about their available resources. Lastly, I feel that it would've been so beneficial to take the time to share with each other our own discovered resources or websites that have helped us in the classroom. Teachers are some of the best resources and we rarely get the chance to network and share with each other.
- He blade was great but having it on Friday they were slow so the press machines were not running. Maybe doing the blade tour in the beginning of week.
- I really liked how it was set up and presented. Maybe offering a movement time after lunch. It was hard to sit after lunch and listen to speakers.
- Most locations were fabulous! Hamm radio could have been a shorted presentation. For next year if activities are different I would come again.
- This is hard to improve on something that is already fantastic. If the places change their activities or add resources maybe they can let us know so we can be always improving also.
- Late day following the late night was very difficult.
- Not sure if this is possible, but would really like to spend more time at the Challenger, Art Museum. Both seemed rushed:-(