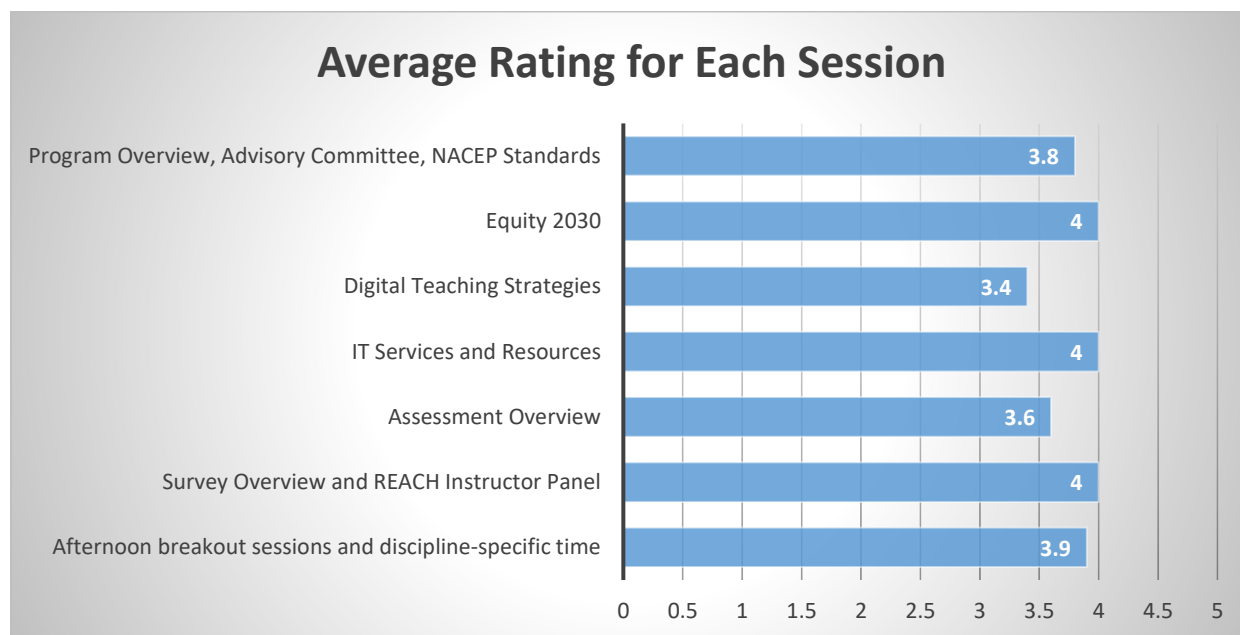# Minnesota West REACH Virtual Professional Development Day Feedback
August 20, 2020

REACH Professional Development Day was held virtually for the first time, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the day was successful. In attendance were 43 REACH Instructors, 24 REACH mentors, and 3 high school staff/principals.

Average Rating for Each Session

Session	Rating
Program Overview, Advisory Committee, NACEP Standards	3.8
Equity 2030	4
Digital Teaching Strategies	3.4
IT Services and Resources	4
Assessment Overview	3.6
Survey Overview and REACH Instructor Panel	4
Afternoon breakout sessions and discipline-specific time	3.9

Attendees were given the opportunity to provide comments about each session:

Program Overview, Advisory Committee, NACEP Standards
- Could be more brief
- It is always good to know what is going on and why. You do a good job of this.
- Very good information

Equity 2030
- Didn't know about this initiative. Great to hear about.
- Great!
- I appreciated learning about this.
- Nice
- Well defined

Digital Teaching Strategies
- Already use and know Kahoot, Quizizz and Quizlet. Did not pull anything new out of it.
- As a HS teacher, this was mostly all information that I have been doing for a long time in my classroom. Like someone said, unlike some MNWest prof, we took education courses and stay current with new technology pieces.
- Had to leave for high School PD, so missed most of it.
- I already use all of these so if felt repetitive

- I have to think that every HS teacher was already aware of all of these strategies and online options.
- I knew about and have worked with all of the things presented
- I learned
- The presenters were great but their topics were not new.
- They did a nice job, but I think most of us knew that stuff already.

IT Services and Resources

- Both Kip and Carolyn did a great job and the info was easy to follow and see.
- Kip is amazing in his knowledge of the system.
- Missed all of this. Sorry
- Nice to know
- Who do I call if there are problems with D2L? How do I get everything set up?

Assessment Overview

- A little vague.
- Good
- It would be good to tell people to save their responses somewhere (copy and paste to saved doc) since the next one asks about results / changes that occurred over time.
- Missed this as well.
- Sometimes I feel the paired assessments that get done for my courses skirt the intent of the requirement of them.
- This helps when the time comes to fill out those assessment forms.

Survey Overview and REACH Instructor Panel

- Good
- I disagree with taking questions out of the survey that were added this year. A big problem for science was the response to "add more labs." Teachers were never given feedback as to where or what. The question needs to stay I believe, if students say add more labs then they should be able to give some input regarding that.
- It is good to listen to people that are involved.
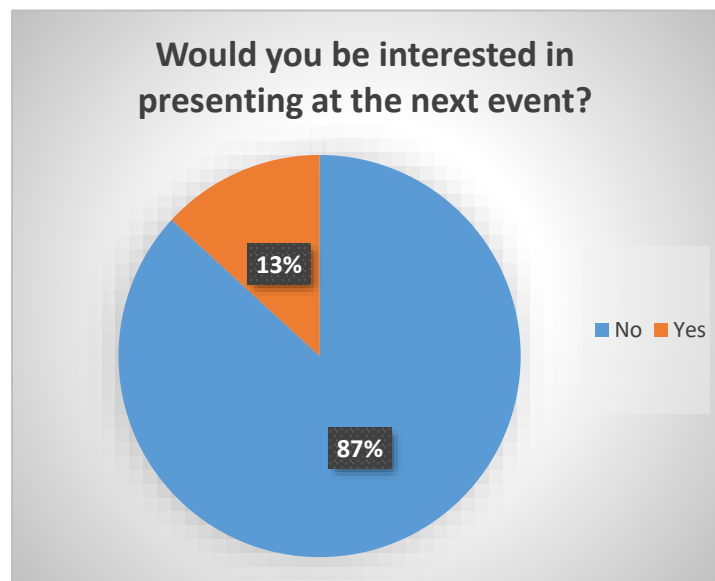- Very helpful new resources and ideas. Thank you!

Afternoon breakout sessions and discipline-specific time

- Could be longer
- I much prefer having that time with just my mentor. Too many people were involved in the meeting to make it as beneficial as in years past.
- I would suggest even in the virtual environment to have let each discipline meet individually.
- Informative
- It is good to here about what others in our discipline are doing.
- No one seemed to know who was in charge.
- Our group discussion was hijacked by teachers complaining about Standards Based Grading in high schools, which has NOTHING to do with REACH courses. We needed the MN West faculty mentors to keep and get us back on topic. It was good to have the smaller group, though, and I hope we have it again next year.
- This time would be better spent having mentors meet with mentees meet rather than clumping disciplines.

- Thanks for doing this virtually and keeping us safe. Hoping this format can be used in years to come.

Are there any changes you would have made to the day?

- Go over the REACH forms in detail and share expectations or examples of what should be included and what is unnecessary.
- More time in breakout session would be beneficial.
- More interactive activities Maybe different tracks - beginner, intermediate, advanced. Although that doesn't necessarily mean years of working with REACH.
- Every year getting high school students admitted to the college is an issue, usually on their end. It would be nice to go over this process and have a step by step to do list to provide students that is easy to follow in order to get them through this process. I give them a print off that I've found on the REACH site and still have problems annually.
- Maybe invite a student panel to join us to share their specific experiences with the REACH program. Also, have more varying "meetings" for those who are new or seasoned people with the REACH program so the information isn't redundant, although a brief review is always helpful.
- I actually got more out of the day in the virtual format then when it's in person. I appreciated not having to travel and the preparation that Kayla, Theresa, and others did to make it a valuable online experience overall.
- Virtual was a great way to complete this - thanks.
- I liked it being on Zoom.
- Please separate those that are new to reach and those that have been doing it for a while. I have heard the same information for several years now.   Please don't insult HS teachers by having college faculty show us how to use interactive tools that we have been using for many years.
- I enjoyed this PD day more than last year.
- It is a really long time to sit at a computer and listen to people speak....I appreciated the breaks, but it is still a long day.
- Take a small 5-10 minute break mid morning. Otherwise, the content was very informative.

Would you be interested in presenting at the next event?

- No
- Yes

13%

87%

- Long Day on Zoom.   A few more breaks would have been nice just to walk away from computer.
- I didn't like the all-encompassing style (e.g. English, Communications, Spanish) of the discipline-specific time. I like the idea of working within the broader range of our discipline (all English mentors and mentees, for example), but the groups were too broad. This gave us less of an opportunity to discuss specific discipline-related questions.

- I would have liked more time with my mentor, but otherwise the day was informative and helpful.

Any topics you were hoping would be covered, or anything you'd like to learn more about?

- Do a session on what makes for a good site visit / notes / what is expected of mentors and mentees.
- I was hoping to connect with my mentor and get more specifics for the class I am going to teach.
- Interactive teaching strategies
- I would like to see more college level student work. When we meet to collaborate in the HS, we share student work, not just assignments or rubrics, so we can co-assess and discuss. I don't know if this is possible, but it would be helpful.
- Maybe do some breakout session. Cover D2L basics for REACH that may use or want to use D2L. More discipline-specific time.
- Maybe have some discussion on what mentors should be discussing with their mentee during a classroom visit. Also, a template for the mentor report would be helpful to go over.
- I think more specific time with our mentors in the small groups would be good. That's when we get the direct info we need and can more easily ask questions.
- If D2L is a recommendation/option for Reach teachers, maybe some training on how to set up your D2L site might be beneficial. I am guessing more people would give it a shot if some training was provided?
- Would have liked to learn more about paired assessment.
- More time to just work on my syllabus would have been nice.
- I feel like a separate meeting for first year instructors would be more effective. I feel like some things were rushed or assumed that we already knew when we didn't.

What was your favorite part of the day?

- Learning more about everything. Getting together with everyone and being able to do it via Zoom.
- Hearing from veteran teachers and what works for them. I also enjoyed the library resources.
- Breakout session
- Hearing about Equity 2030 I thought Kip's presentation was interesting. However, the resources won't be useful in my courses since my courses have non-CIS students as well.
- IT Services and Resources
- Hearing about college expectations and resources available to my students.
- The discipline-specific time was my favorite part of the day.
- Discipline specific time.
- Covering the expectations that your mentor has to cover / do with you. Thankful for the updated Syllabus being emailed again as a reminder, otherwise I would not have had mine changed and ready to go.
- I liked listening to the high school teacher panel and seeing what they are doing in their classes with the REACH program. That was a great idea!
- I appreciated Kip's information about the resources available in the MN West Library and online. It was very helpful.

- breakout session
- Break-out sessions
- Be able to meet with discipline areas.
- Digital teaching tools and seeing how instructors were finding success in their instruction.
- End of the day breakout
- Discipline-specific meetings
- Instructor panel and the opportunity for others to share what they are doing in their courses.
- The organization of the day was excellent. Nothing stood out above the rest of the agenda.
- Collaboration time with discipline-specific groups.
- Zoom session with Advisor
- Individual session with advisor.
- About equity
- The breakout session.
- The afternoon breakouts sessions