

# Community Resources Workshop

2009



**community**resources  
workshop

## Evaluation Report

*Prepared by the Northwest Ohio Center  
for Excellence in STEM Education*

## ■ INTRODUCTION ■

This report will describe the implementation of the 2009 Community Resources Workshop as well as the perceptions of the workshop participants regarding the quality and impact of the workshop. The report will begin with a brief description of the 2009 Community Resources Workshop followed by a summary of the evaluation procedures. The report will continue by outlining and explaining the findings from the evaluation, and will end 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. Teachers who attend the CRW become more aware of and familiar with local educational resources by visiting several community organizations and hearing presentations from several additional organizations.

The 2009 CRW ran from June 15-19, during which teachers visited the Franciscan Center at Lourdes College, Wildwood Metropark, The Blade, The Toledo Museum of Art, WGTE Public Media, The Toledo Zoo, the Challenger Learning Center of Lucas County, Fifth Third Field (of the Toledo Mud Hens), and the Toledo Public Library. In addition, the teachers were engaged in presentations by organizations such as the Wolcott House, Nature's Nursery, and Toledo Botanical Garden.

Forty-four participants attended the 2009 CRW. The participants were all teachers in grades ranging from Pre-Kindergarten to high school; about 50% of participants taught elementary (K-4) grades, about 16% taught middle grades (6-8), and about 13% taught high school. The most common subjects reportedly taught by participants were Science (taught by 68% of participants), Reading/English (68%), Math (59%) and Social Studies (58%). Other subjects reported included Instrumental Music and Business.

## ■ EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES WORKSHOP ■

The evaluation of the 2009 Community Resources Workshop was guided by the following questions:

- 1 What are the participants perceptions regarding the quality/value of the workshop?
- 2 How does 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?

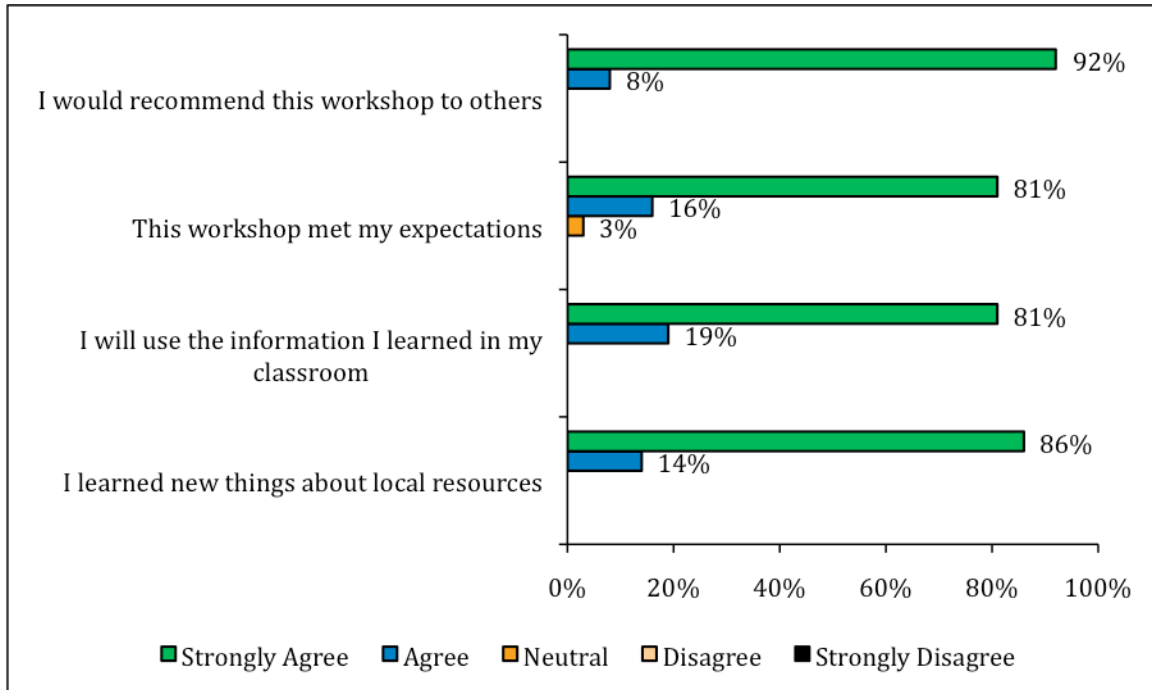
In order to answer these evaluation questions, data were collected from 37 participants using the Community Resources Workshop Evaluation Survey, which was administered at the end of the last day of the workshop. The survey consists of 15 items that measure teachers' perceptions of the quality of the 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 as they were when taking the survey (after the workshop), as well as what they were before the survey, 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 (2008-2009), and then to estimate their monthly use of community resources for the following school year (2009-2010).

## ■ 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 80% of the participants strongly agreed with all four statements. The figure below illustrates the participants' responses (n=36) to each of the four statements.



Many teachers also provided written comments for each statement. These written responses were analyzed to identify common themes.

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

The participants 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 test 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. In fact, 33

participants indicated they were more aware of community resources after the CRW ( $Z=-5.084, p<.001$ ). The figure below illustrates the participants' responses to the "awareness" statement.