

		High	4	3	2	Low	Rating
1.	Conference helpful and worthwhile...	190	162	27	6	2	4.37
2.	The food was...	95	173	85	20	7	3.87
3.	The keynote speaker was...	63	114	137	51	18	3.40
4.	Format and length of conference...	116	190	66	15	2	4.04
5.	Conference worthwhile to beginning teachers...	211	138	29	7	1	4.43

COMMENTS

6. What you found to be the most positive aspect/s

General

- Great presenters were enthusiastic and loved what they were doing; session lengths were just right
- A very personalized day! Thanks to all who donated their time to be here!
- Each individual was intelligent within their realm. Lots of positive attitudes.
- Teachers that stayed away from lecture were most successful.
- Variety of choice; being able to get info about topics that interest and concern me; sincerity of presenters
- All the good reminders. Great reminders to really strive to become that great teacher.
- Management tips from practicing educators. Organized and enthusiastic presenters.
- Actual professionals were sharing ideas! Many options, useful topics, immediately useable information
- Variety of sessions offered multiple times. Nice selection. Practical tips. Relevant topics
- Speakers spoke from real experience. Handouts--gave more info than was covered. Meeting peers.
- Much better conference than in the fall--great choice and better speakers. Networking and various ideas
- I liked hearing from "seasoned" teachers. This conference is a nice break from classroom, nice day of change.
- Knowledgeable, passionate presenters with interesting, practical and helpful session topics
- Willingness of presenters to be a resource. Tips in the form of packets is SO useful! Having choices!
- Accessibility of presenters--available for additional conversation afterward. We need more conferences like this!
- First year teacher sessions were very helpful. Great speakers, good content. Helpful practical applications
- Day planner in booklet was helpful. I learned some good tips especially for classroom management.
- Good support for student teachers given! In-depth look at students / behavior. Fantastic assortment of topics.
- Representation of districts, and joint venture participating colleges. Amazing talent! Real in-field people!! Loved it!
- Interesting to see what we learn in class being put into practice by the presenter-classroom teachers.
- I learned great things today! Good peer interaction. Honest presenters. Diverse selection of presenters great.
- Tips for setting up 1st year classroom. Enjoyed sessions on learning how to find the best jobs.
- Positive atmosphere made me feel like I can't wait to get a job. High-energy presenters. I had a great time!
- Small sessions so I could ask questions. I learned new ways to engage students. Handouts to take home.
- Learning a variety of ways to improve or expand skills & knowledge as beginning teachers
- Teaching to families (D. Eppelheimer) was most positive aspect. Session speakers really seemed to care!
- Presenters who had actual classroom experience! Lots of advice and great ideas.
- Ability to choose my preferred session. Very practical and useful information. All my choices...and meals!
- Something that was new to me in every session! Each session I attended was beneficial to me.
- Encouraging presenters who mentioned that they went through many interviews before getting hired.

Sessions with positive mention:

- Eppelheimer: Reducing Teacher Talk ("need additional sessions of this")
- Emperor: Getting Through 1st Year ("fantastic presentation")
- Shinsky: Successful Strategies...Disabilities
- Technology seminars
- Bergwerff: Teaching and Assessing Science
- Panels: Interview Panel,
- Bennett: Kinder, Gentler Classroom
- Simpson/Post/Kiel: Portfolio
- Out of State Panel ("Gave me hope for a job")
- Bultman: Things I Wish I'd Known Sooner! ("Great job, great handouts!")

- Sipka: Love and Logic ("Great examples & energetic!") ("Incredible! I left empowered!")
- Kindergarten tech. session
- Feenstra: Managing Difficult People, Classroom Management & Professional Rapport
- Seminar on "Thirty Things I Need To Know"
- Hebreard, Speyers: People Types and Tiger Stripes
- Schoone-Jongen: Teaching History Through Debate
- Kirk: Brain Gym
- Technology in Classroom: VanderMolen, Zwyghuizen
- Kavanaugh: Relationship Building...--good enthusiasm in her session!
- Wosinski: Real Classroom Management
- Resume team: OK, So You Have A Degree...
- Komoelje: True Colors ("hilarious and informative!") ("interesting and true") ("I loved it!") ("worthwhile")
- Hull: Collecting Stuff: Creating Story
- Mousel: Love languages

Keynote:

- Hard to hear; should have "fired us up"! Get a speaker with new ideas. She was boring.
- Get speakers who are used to and skilled at addressing larger college-aged crowds
- Look for someone informational, inspirational, and memorable. Longer keynote speaker time
- Could have done without the keynote speaker. Keep introduction short.
- Have a "fired up" speaker to start the conference. Consider Bill Cecil--last year's MI Teacher of the Year

7. Comments on any logistical aspects, changes for the future

- REMINDER to turn off cell phones. Too many went off during sessions. More detailed maps.
- "Sign-out" system for ... students screams "we don't trust you."
- Conference was well planned, organized, and went smoothly.
- Pre-register for sessions so I can get the ones I want. More afternoon options. Hold conference downtown.
- Don't charge for this AND make it mandatory--that's not right. No time to pick up lunch and get to 3rd session.
- Tips for first year of teaching were things we've all heard before--share new information. Rooms too small.
- List sessions according to area of interest (finding a career / In the classroom / building resume)
- I think many students have attended professional conf. before--I went to CEC last week--this is repetitive.
- More repeating sessions; larger or more sessions of the most popular speakers; some extremely full sessions
- Too much repetitiveness. You need to advertise about breakfast--I stopped ahead of time!
- Eliminate keynote--allow more time in sessions. More time between sessions so we can visit restrooms!
- Too much time between seminars. Out-of-state Panel room too small. Consider a wrap-up session at day's end
- Require handouts. Use large conference rooms for packed-out sessions. Need enough handouts for all.
- Offer a pre-conf. interest survey to determine which sessions would need larger rooms.
- Programs available at registration. Travel to buildings can be more organized. End earlier.
- Could we use another building with bigger rooms? Do a Friday/Saturday combo so I get to more sessions
- Schedule at beginning of semester, not in the thick of it. Two days would allow me to go to more sessions
- Encourage presenter e mail addresses for further contact about their presentations.
- Ten minutes between sessions is enough. Less choices, bigger classrooms. Start time difficult for longer travel.
- Need 20 minutes between sessions for bathroom visits, drinks. Need fruit for breakfast..
- More sessions of popular workshops. Coat check. Sessions all ended early anyway, so plan 40 min. sessions.
- Offer morning sessions in the afternoon also. Help in preparing professional portfolios.
- Tough to miss a day with kids at this point--I don't feel benefits of conference outweigh this disadvantage
- Need to choose sessions beforehand so that things don't overflow. Sit by schools in the Field House.
- Do four mini sessions instead of 5 with a short lunch--5 is too long. Hold conference earlier in semester.
- Clearer driving directions. Clearer directions for lunchtime. Map of the building--room numbers
- Spread out the sessions more between morning and afternoon. List sessions by topic as well as alphabetically.
- Make nametags with pins. Need more direction signs outside. More time to pick up lunch. 45-minute sessions?
- Great that all sessions were on same floor and in same building. Too crowded in some sessions.
- With what we pay in tuition, conference fee should be taken out of that. Need some breaks during the long day
- Need more room in sessions and less to chose from. More time to get to first session.
- Please schedule this conference on a Friday. Schedule in a warmer month. More presenters from urban settings
- The "good" classes fill up too fast. As the day progressed, there were less sessions that I wanted to attend.
- I got lost--I need a building map. Less lunch time, passing time so we can get done earlier.

LUNCH

- I missed out on sessions because of lunchtime. Allow more time to pick up lunch on way to session.
- Turkey, mmm...no ham? More directions to get to lunch! Make getting drinks easier.
- I liked lunch set up which allowed me to attend 5 sessions; have lunchtime with NO sessions so we don't miss
- Have a lunch time that doesn't interrupt sessions. Make lunch an option.
- Set aside lunch time--time to stop without missing a session. Shorter lunch time. More grab-and-go drinks.
- Spread out the secondary sessions more. Management in a music classroom. Add water bottles to lunch.
- Please serve coffee after lunch. Consider lunch pick up stations in the hallways to go quicker.
- Sandwiches gave me indigestion and stomach problems. Didn't like "wonderbread" buns.

8. Suggestions for topics in the future?

- Invite us back next year! Offer CPR training for those who still need it. ADHD session.
- Technology workshops, using the arts in the classroom. Math sessions and games. More for middle school.
- More on incorporating technology into the classroom. NLLB. More poverty / Ruby Payne. Financial advice.
- Dealing with behavior issues--the unexpected. Much more about interviewing. Dealing with Gifted / Talented
- Have more on music, or don't require music majors to come. How to go about job hunting.
- How music can be helpful / why general teachers should work alongside music teacher. Practice interviews.
- More science laboratory suggestions. Incorporating culture into the art room. Differentiated instruction.
- Things to know about your contract (i.e., benefits, salary). Literacy skills for secondary ed.
- A specific presentation on various elementary behavior management plans / strategies. More on Special Ed.
- Importance of phys education, ideas. More on interviewing and resumes. Teaching Spanish to special needs.
- More art, more PE, more music; sessions on grant writing, grant sources, technology use. History.
- More on resumes, interviews--go in-depth. More on interviewing skills--principals or interview committees
- Differentiation; more specific topics (core). Further degrees, international, non-profit work, etc.
- Dealing with parents. More on special ed. More "make it-take it". More on portfolios. Subject area sessions.
- Curriculum ideas, planning ideas, unit planning and sources. Inner-city education. Standardized testing issues.
- More about other theorists besides Jim Fay and Love and Logic. More special ed options.
- Cooperative learning evaluation. More on writing. Michigan job search. Core Ed., character education. NHA?
- Pros and cons of teaching internationally. More sessions with assessment ideas and examples.
- How to stay motivated--teacher mentoring. Integrating stuff like math and art. More topical sessions.
- More sessions on management--seemed all of them were packed. More granular topics per subject matter
- More hard core data and research-based info. MEA? Urban teaching--not just classroom management
- Businesses who are willing to give out supplies to teachers--soliciting for them. Curriculum planning.
- Contracts and salary negotiations. Sub info for Muskegon County. "Time-filler" activities so kids learn / enjoy
- IQ vs. multiple intelligences. Assessments. How to deal with feeling overwhelmed first few years.
- High school science options--biology, chemistry, physics, etc. Psychology of young children in school.
- How to run an effective "inclusion" classroom. How to juggle coaching with teaching. Character education.
- Teaching to a multi-cultural class. Urban education--how to handle and make best of challenges
- Something on preventing and punishing cheaters.
- Teaching "at risk" students. Literacy in secondary ed. Teaching students to be critical cultural learners.
- Transitions in the Elementary classroom, parent/teacher conferences. More on 1st Day of School.
- Extra-curricular activities involvement. More on unit planning ideas. More on foreign language mini-lessons
- How to work a job fair. Safe classrooms. MEA and other teacher associations--benefits, dues, retirement
- More on portfolios. More on learning centers/in subject areas. More curriculum-based/subject areas
- International schools. L.A.P.S. program. Teaching at alternative ed. schools. More on other ed. philosophies.
- Cross curriculum (curriculum overlap). How a First Year Teacher should deal with other staff members.
- More specific classroom approaches such as Kohn "Building Classroom Community", etc.

Suggested speakers for the future:

WHO	LOCATE	WHAT TOPIC
Dawn Kari Ladd	Fruitport Beach & Shettler El	PE, crossing curriculum
Mark Salik	Lakeshore Middle School	Math
Linda Clark	Holland High School	Liberal education
David Tanis	GVSU	Hands-on Science
Dr. Frank Stancatto	Central Mich University	Affective & Cognitive Learning
Ron Clark	Disney Tchr of the Year	
Mr Berd, the Sci. Nerd	At GVSU PD day	
Pat Oostenink	Calvin College	Could add to "Wowing" students, El. Anticipatory set
Richard Mezeske	Hope College	Children's Literature
Elizabeth Brown	Ferris: 231-592-5442	Reading With Meaning
Linda Jordan	Hope College	Brain's natural learning systems
Jill Uthe	Forest Frove El/ Hdsnvl Schs	Second grade teacher
Dr. Tamara Rosier	Cornerstone	Classroom Management, respecting students
Dr. Rhonda White	Cornerstone	Cultural diversity, differentiated instruction
? The man who spoke at the roundtable discussion at the Alumni House on Feb 23?		
Kristen Keifer (EE)	Greenridge El; Comstock Pk	The Importance of Play
Holly Lake	St. Thomas School/ GR	Successful Kindergarten Centers
Jim DeBoer	Holland Schools	Elementary music
Jack Long	Newaygo	Behavior management
Paul Blake	Ferris State Univ	
Pamela Waterbury	Aquinas College	Writing, Elem Ed., Inner City School Issues
Prof. Nancy Mack	GVSU	Mathematics Dept
Ann Dimmick	Calvin College	Any topic will be valuable!
Michelle Williams	Hall Elem, GRPS	Classroom Mgnmt, Bilingual Education
Jim Heiftje	Fremont Asst Superintendent	Excellent on interviews and behavior
Prof. Keeley	Calvin Education prof	Christian Teachers in Public Schools
LuAnne Nelson	Grant Elem 231-834-5678	Accommodations
Dr. Patti Rowe	GVSU	
Dr. Charles Norris		Music Ed
Mr. Bob Engelsman	Westwood Middle/Union High	Music
Guy Dowd		
Natural resources educators about pond program		
Nanette Clatterbuck	Aquinas	
Sue Libatore	Aquinas	Informal reading assessment

FIRE UP Presenter Feedback: 23 returns
March 7, 2005

1. I have presented at this conference:	(1 st time)	11	(previously)	12
2. I presented the following number of mini sessions	①	3	②	15
	③	4	④	1
	⑤			
3. I received adequate advance notice/materials:	(Y)	21	(N)	1
4. The requested equipment/materials were provided:	(Y)	21	(N)	
5. I was greeted by an ITEC representative.	(Y)	21	(N)	2
6. Someone was available to answer my questions.	(Y)	22	(N)	
7. Parking arrangements were adequate.	(Y)	21	(N)	2
8. I would like to participate in future conferences.	(Y)	22	(N)	

Comments or concerns:

- Parking arrangements were adequate, but confusing – Kris Burghgraef
- Parking was confusing – Angie Spears
- Excellent organization. Great audience
- This was a great, eager group of young teachers! I really enjoyed them!
- Pat Siemens and Andrea Dewey are always very helpful throughout the day. Great conference to interact with student teachers (future sub teachers) – Evie Raap, OAISD
- I thought the conference was very good. – John Shinsky
- Always an enjoyable experience – Tim Bennett
- Parking arrangements: didn't know I would need to pay for parking. Please note this on the orientation materials to have lots of change. I received the info one week prior to my sessions. I would have liked it sooner. – Sheri Vig
- More signs both outside on the campus and inside the building!
- Very well organized! Thanks for making additional copies this AM. I brought 50 and was wiped out in first session ☺ – Joan Dreyer, Rockford
- If the sponsor could give us an estimate of # coming and provide copies of our handouts it would be nice. – Tammy Loranger
- Patricia continues to do a great job with organization & hospitality. She is always prompt in answering questions and responding to concerns.
- Everything was congenial and conducive to facilitating anything I needed. If the handicap unloading area could be marked a little more clearly on the map, that would have been helpful. Great day! – Rebecca Kirk
- Provision of requested equipment / materials was excellent – Dennis Van Haitsma

Cooperating Teacher Breakfast Conference Feedback
Grand Valley State University, Pew Campus
March 10, 2005

PART ONE		High⇒ Low	5	4	3	2	1	Rating
This conference was helpful and worthwhile...			58	46	7	1		4.44
The food was...			58	43	20	6	2	4.16
The keynote speaker (<i>Dr. Leslie Wessman</i>) was...			70	34	15	2	1	4.39
The format, length of the conference were...			75	32	8		1	4.55

PART TWO		High⇒ Low	5	4	3	2	1	Rating
1	How Is Your Remote Working?		19	9	3			4.52
2	Tips on Student Teacher Evaluation		10	12	8			4.07
3	Stages of Teacher Development (CANCELLED)							
4	Changing General Education Classroom		2	4	4	3	2	3.07
5	Sure Wish I'd Known That Sooner!		30	9	2			4.68
6	True Colors		30	3				4.91
7	Read 4 Rent		3	1	1	1		4.00
8	All The World's A Stage...Shakespeare		15	4	2	1		4.50
9	Balanced and Restorative Justice		2	1				4.67
10	Emphasizing Rigor and Relevance		4	1			1	4.33
11	Brain Gym		26	13	5			4.48

PART THREE: Comments

1. What were the most positive aspects of this conference?

Keynote:

- Excellent! Great presentation. Awesome and reflective! Super! Short, but good content!
- Wonderful, how inspiring! Inspirational, beautiful. Loved her style—simple but powerful message that I will record highlights and give to my intern as her exit gift! Wow!
- Motivational, inspirational, a shot of energizing rejuvenation! Rated 5+++ . Honest and motivational.
- Emotional and authentic.
- Appreciated her honesty, realness and encouragement.

Session:

True Colors—Awesome! Very entertaining, worthwhile. Fun, interesting. Useable at school & home! Great! Outstanding! Great insight!

Remote—Wish I'd had this sooner—before my ST began. Good, but indicate this is for elementary.

Tips on Student Teacher Evaluation— Discussion time was very helpful.

Sure Wish I'd Known That Sooner— great. Very entertaining. Excellent! Repeat this one!

Emphasizing Rigor & Relevance— scary! Presenter SO thorough & informed! Excellent information.

Brain Gym—great. Handouts would have been great too. A very competent presenter. Super. Good stuff! This I can use! Wish we'd had more time!

All The World's A Stage—fabulous ideas and philosophy. Repeat this one!

Balanced and Restorative Justice—very resourceful. Unexpected and helpful session. Intelligent & informative.

1. General comments:

- It's great to feel appreciated. Thank you for putting on the breakfast and workshops. I enjoyed this day.
- Many thanks—a very worthwhile morning—gained more inspiration to keep going. Great location & facility.
- What a great morning! Good respite from the classroom; time to dialogue with peers, and be encouraged.
- Very nice conference. A great builder-upper for mentor teachers: confirming, affirming, informative, life giving.
- I like alternating every semester with Hope and Grand Valley. I liked being recognized for contribution made.
- Teaching well is so life changing! Speakers very excited about topics & info to give out & help others.

- Good, quick tips for teaching and supervising. Lots of new ideas to try. Professional development.
- I didn't want to come, but I left with a positive attitude. Short sessions, early release time were nice.
- Time with peers. Talking with others let me know that I am being successful as a mentor.
- A chance to hear practical advice for mentoring and evaluating my student teacher. Great wide variety.
- Sharing information with peers. Great sessions! Great presenters. This morning was very beneficial.
- Nice to have this opportunity to get out of the classroom *and* out of my student teacher's hair!
- Well organized, succinct and relevant. Excellent conference for first time supervisors. Inspiring.
- Competent, enthusiastic presenters. Communicating with others. Session speakers knowledgeable & interesting
- Reinforcing opportunities to help students learn more. I got a few good ideas today. Thank you!
- A day away from school (change of pace) and some good ideas to use with student teachers.
- Descriptive words and possible phrases to write in student teacher evaluation. Very upbeat, motivating.
- Well organized—short and sweet! Very informative, very resourceful and lots of handouts!

Food:

- Great food. Breakfast was great! Breakfast was delicious. Excellent. What a wonderful breakfast—thank you!
- Yummy, but bacon very salty.
- Ran out of fruit which was all I could eat. Cold. Try to provide more healthier choices.
- Bacon not good, hash browns too chewy. Consider putting water (for refills) on tables.

*Coffee
on Tables*

2. What topics to address in the future?

- More on working with a challenging student teacher. Session about mentoring & evaluations.
- How to organize the semester so your student teacher grows. New info on brain-based learning.
- How to share curriculum—merging cooperating teacher's ideas with ST's ideas.
- More on ADHD, Autism, Downs, ADD, Special Education. Jim Fay approach in-depth. Comprehension helps.
- Parent interactions—positive approach to negative parent. (parent education). Writing hints.
- Bring back "Remote" session for future conferences. Classroom management & student teachers.
- Guiding a ST to reinforce the procedures already in place upon their arrival. Practical helps for classroom.
- Helping teachers and STs to recognize self-imposed stress. Stages of Teacher Development (cancelled session)
- More variety—topics too similar to last year. Conflict resolution. What to do with a poor or struggling ST.
- ISD services—I don't think classroom teachers are aware of available services (specialists, etc). More spec. ed.
- Impact Teaching—Candice Churchwell, KTC; Technology Expansion, Charles Bultman
- Acquiring items for free or minimal charge (tooth supplies for Dental Health Month, books for the classroom, etc.)
Places that offer funding: Sam's Club on a monthly basis. More about working *with* student teacher. Hot topics.
- More for "older" teachers—review of research findings in last decade relevant to education, maybe
- Bring in some "pairs"—supervisor & student teacher—to discuss their experiences. Bring in some video clips.
- How we can help overwhelmed student teachers. How to teach brain development, and more about it.

3. Any general suggestions:

- Make door knob signs to hang outside when session is full. "Sorry we are full" & "Come on in—there is still room"
- An open forum where mentor teachers can suggest to university placement coordinators what is "missing" in their programs. A session where each college speaks with all mentor teachers in a large group setting
- Hold this conference earlier (suggested many times). Hold *before* we have student teachers in our classrooms!
- More parking directions. Is it possible to get session choices in advance of the "breakfast morning"?
- It would be nice to start later than 8:30—breakfast didn't need to be so long. Do Q & A time in all sessions.
- Publish program in advance to allow pre-registration, cancellation, expansion, etc. I would have liked it longer.
- We need paper for note-taking, or copies of PowerPoint for notes—we had to take notes on the program
- Larger rooms for popular sessions. Note target grade levels for each session. Consider a whole-day conference.
- Note if session is going to be "sharing" reflective rather than specific information in program.
- Shorter sessions so we can go to more! More topics to choose from. Provide folder or paper to take notes.
- Books available for purchase on topics. Start sessions on time. Give out plastic bags for all the goodies.
- Too much time allowed in ST Evaluation session to air ST frustrations. Give more direction in writing final eval.
- A water bottle to take along to sessions to keep our brains hydrated and ready to learn ☺

4. Including your present one, how many student teachers have you supervised in the past?

First One	2—5	6—10	MORE
27	49	19	8