



Evaluation Report

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

July 2011

■ INTRODUCTION ■

This report will describe the implementation of the 2011 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 2011 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. 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 achievement of these objectives is beneficial to teachers and schools as well as community organizations. 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 2011 CRW was implemented June 20 – 24, during which teachers visited the Franciscan Center at Lourdes College, Secor Metropark, Imagination Station, 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 Scrap 4 Art, the Toledo Symphony, Sauder Village, Fort Meigs, Toledo Botanical Garden, Maumee Valley Historical Society, Nature's Nursery, and the Downtown Walking Tour.

Forty-nine teachers attended the 2011 CRW, thirty of which attended as participants in Project Pi r². Most of the teachers taught grades K – 6, with 36% in grades K – 3 and 44% in grades 4 – 6. Almost 50% of the teachers taught all core subjects, while other teachers reported teaching science (16%), language arts (18%), and math (13%).

When asked how they learned about the CRW, 42% of the teachers reported that they had learned about the CRW via e-mail (mostly sent from NWO/BGSU), 38% reported learning about the CRW through a friend or colleague, 11% reported learning about the CRW via a flyer at their school, and 11% reported learning about the CRW through their participation in other local professional development projects.

When asked about the main reasons for attending the workshop, most teachers reported wanting to learn about new ideas to use in their classrooms, but many teachers also reported wanting contact hours/CEUs and graduate credit.

■ EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES WORKSHOP ■

The evaluation of the 2011 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?

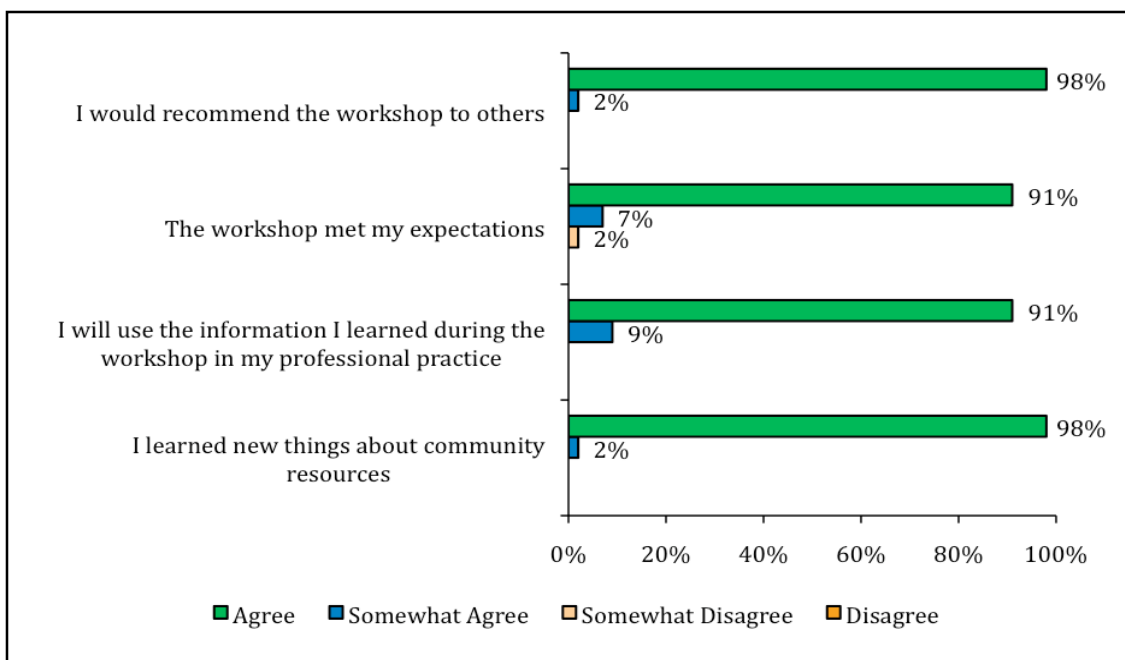
In order to answer these evaluation questions, data were collected from 45 participants using the Community Resources Workshop Evaluation Survey, which was administered at the end of the last day of the workshop. The survey consists of 15 items that measure teachers' perceptions of the quality of the 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 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 (2010-2011), and then to estimate their monthly use of community resources for the following school year (2011-2012). See Appendix A for the 2011 Community Resources Workshop Evaluation Survey.

■ EVALUATION FINDINGS ■

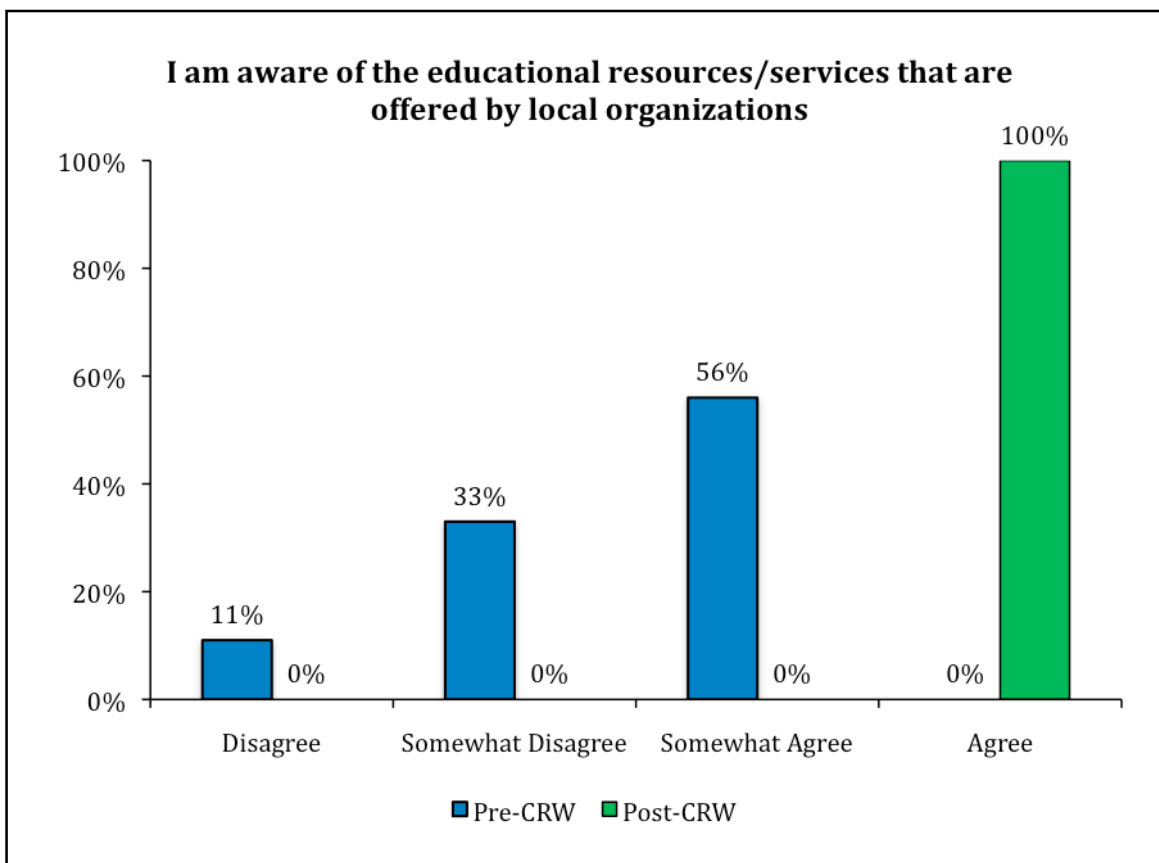
What are the participants perceptions regarding the quality/value of the workshop?

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 all four statements. The figure below illustrates the participants' responses (n=45) to each of the four statements.



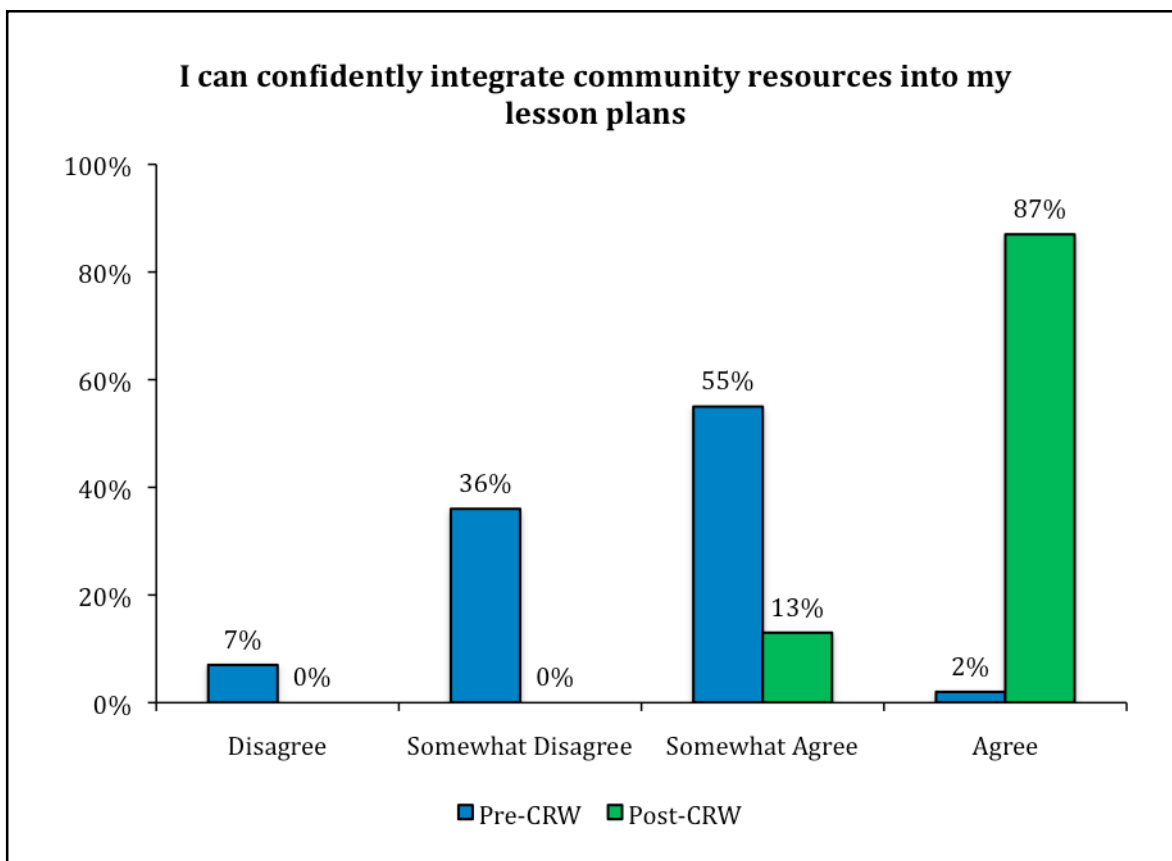
How does the participants' awareness of community resources change as a result of the workshop?

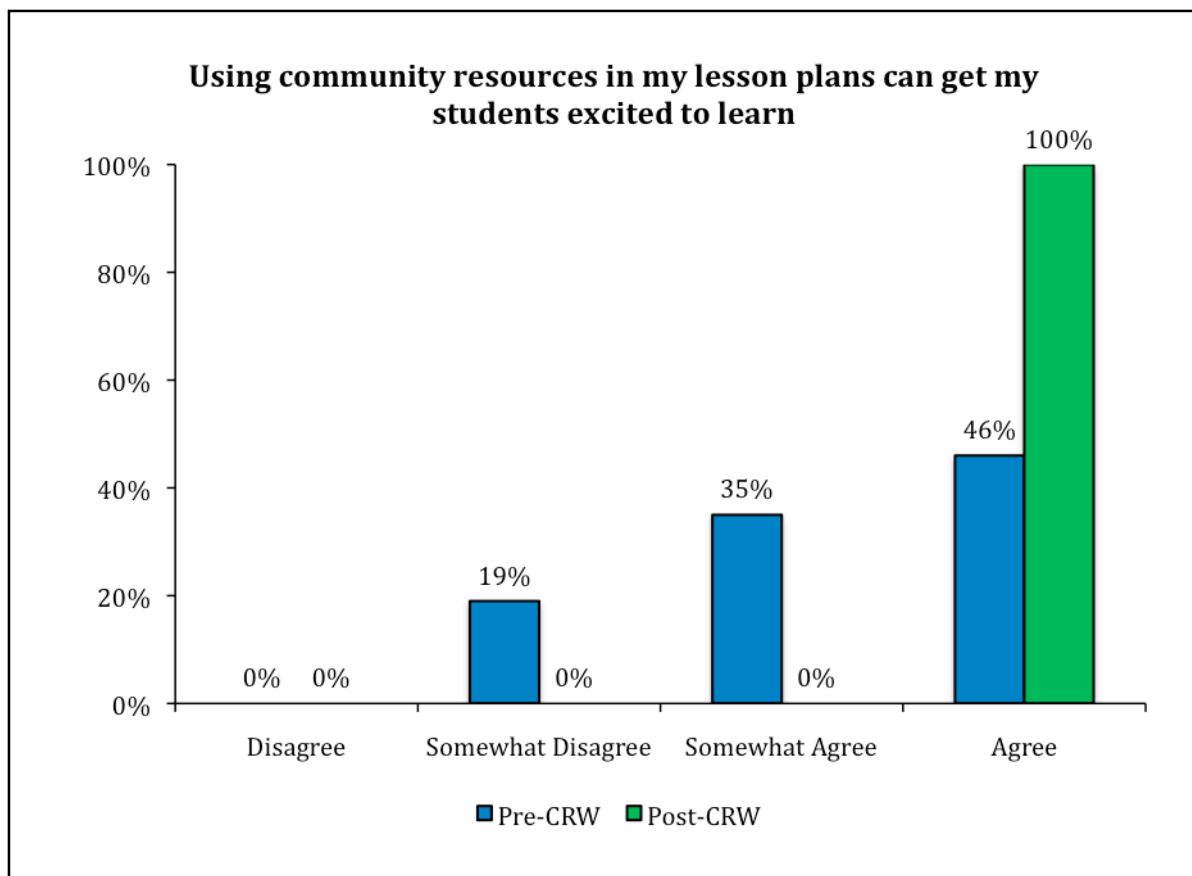
The participants were asked to rate their level of agreement/disagreement for the following statement: "I am aware of the educational resources/services that are offered by local organizations". The participants gave two responses for this statement – one to represent their opinion at the end of the 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, all 45 teachers indicated they were more aware of community resources after the CRW ($Z=-5.99$, $p<.001$). The figure below illustrates the participants' responses.



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

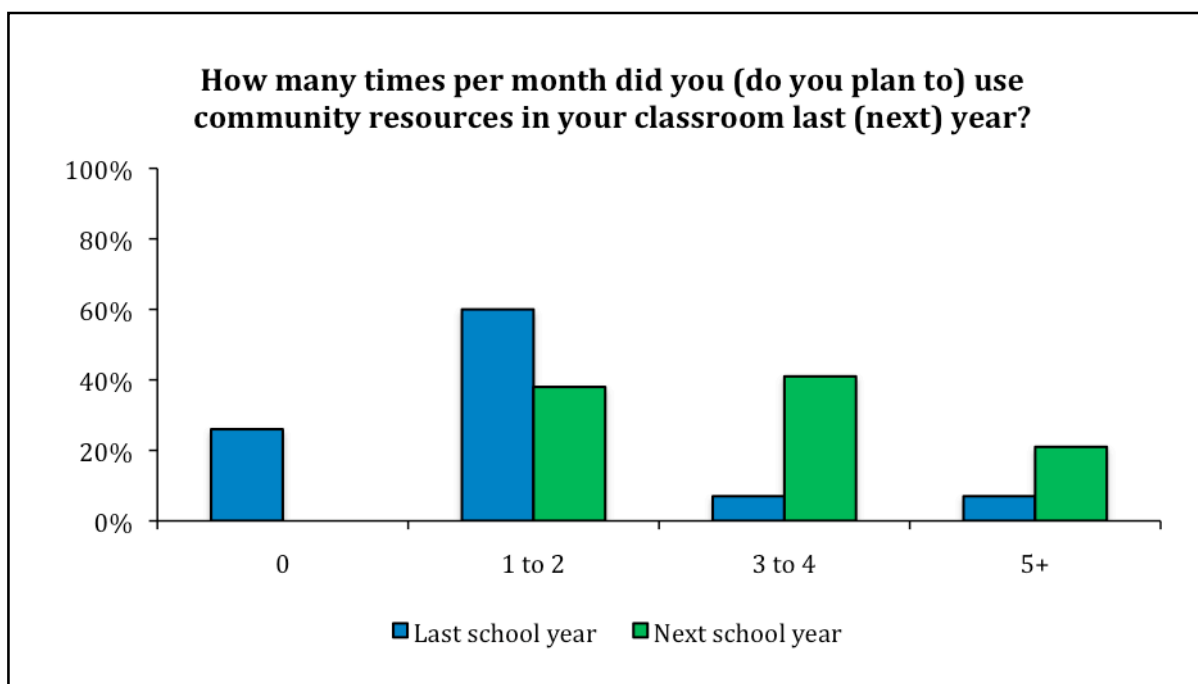
The participants were asked to rate their level of agreement/disagreement for the following statements: "I can confidently integrate community resources into my lesson plans" and "Using community resources in my lesson plans can get my students excited to learn". The participants gave two responses for 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. A Wilcoxon test was conducted to evaluate whether the participants' attitudes significantly changed as a result of the CRW. The results indicated that teachers had significantly more positive attitudes after the CRW. In fact, 41 participants (out of 44) indicated they were more confident after the workshop in integrating community resources into their lesson plans ($Z=-5.77, p<.001$). In addition, 23 participants (out of 43) more strongly endorsed the belief that community resources can get their students excited to learn ($Z=-4.36, p<.001$). 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 ($Z=-4.77$, $p<.001$). Thirty participants (out of forty) 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) the ways that they generally used community resources during the previous school year and 2) the ways that they plan on using community resources during the next school year. Teachers reported generally using community resources as field trip destinations before the workshop. 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 aware of resources that could be brought into their classrooms.

■ 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. Many of the teachers' comments related to their awareness of community resources. Some of the teachers wrote:

I thought I knew the community well but this opened me eyes to new ideas, and ways I can integrate resources & materials in my lessons.

This workshop was excellent. I was unaware of all the resources available and the willingness & funds for making these services available. I will share this info with my school.

I truly enjoyed each and every session. I knew there were many local gems in the Toledo area, but not to their full extent.

Teacher also commented on the variety of sessions and resources that they were exposed to throughout the workshop. Two teachers wrote:

Very detailed and great for learning about our area! Loved the variety of resources we were able to experience.

Overall, I was pleased with the quality and variety of presentations.

Regarding the most useful aspect of the CRW, many teachers gave general responses about getting new ideas and using community resources in their classroom. However, some of the most common responses were about the hands-on nature of the workshop activities, learning about the outreach services that are provided by many of the community partners, and learning about low cost alternatives to field trips.

See Appendix B for the 2011 CRW teachers' comments organized by survey question.

A few recommendations can be made for future workshops based on the participants' comments and suggestions.

1 *Provide opportunities for teachers to “network” during the workshop*

A few teachers mentioned that having time to network with other teachers (i.e., discuss ideas among themselves as a group or in grade level groups) would have improved their experience at the CRW.

2 *Add more/different resources to the CRW.*

This recommendation is based on teachers' comments about two different issues related to the content of the CRW. First, teachers suggested a few resources that could be added to the CRW in the future. These resources included the S.S. Boyer, the Toledo Fire Museum, Kelly's Island, and Ritter Planetarium. Second, a few teachers suggested changing the resources every year to allow the same teachers to attend the workshop more than once. While it is probably not feasible to completely change the workshop every year, it does seem possible to add a few new resources each year (in place of some others). Also, continuing to focus on a new theme each year may allow repeat participants to learn how resources can be used in multiple ways for multiple subjects.

3 *Seek out sources of funding that would decrease/eliminate participants' registration fee and provide teachers with some free resources to use during the school year.*

Although some of the community resources presented at the workshop are free for teachers, many resources are not, and therefore are unlikely to be used by teachers due to their schools' budget constraints. If the Community Resources Consortium could locate external funding, they could provide participants with a free community outreach program for their classroom. In addition, external funding could be used to reduce or eliminate the participants' registration fee, which would likely increase the number of participants who attend the CRW, and expand the reach of the partnering community organizations.

APPENDIX A:
2011 CRW EVALUATION SURVEY

2011 Community Resources Workshop Evaluation

Unique Code	First 2 Letters of Mother's Maiden Name		Your Birth Month (2 digits)		Your Birth Day (2 digits)	
EXAMPLE	D	E	0	7	1	8
YOUR ID						

1. I am a (circle one):

Counselor Media Specialist Administrator Teacher

If you are a teacher: Grade(s) _____ Subject(s) _____

2. I learned about this workshop from:

3. What were your main reasons for attending this workshop?

4. I learned new things about community resources as a result of attending the workshop

Disagree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Agree Agree

5. I will use the information I learned during the workshop in my professional practice

Disagree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Agree Agree

6. The workshop met my expectations

Disagree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Agree Agree

7. I would recommend the workshop to others

Disagree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Agree Agree

For the following statements (8 – 10), choose the category that represents your opinion TODAY, and then choose the category that represents your opinion BEFORE THE WORKSHOP.

8. I am aware of the educational resources/services that are offered by local organizations

TODAY Disagree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Agree Agree

BEFORE WORKSHOP Disagree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Agree Agree

9. I can confidently integrate community resources into my lesson plans

TODAY	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree
BEFORE WORKSHOP	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree

10. Using community resources in my lessons can get my students excited to learn

TODAY	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree
BEFORE WORKSHOP	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree

11. Approximately how many times per month did you use community resources in your classroom last school year?

0 1-2 3-4 5+

In what ways did you generally use community resources last year?

12. How many times per month do you plan on using community resources in your classroom next school year?

0 1-2 3-4 5+

In what ways are you planning to use community resources next year?

13. 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.

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

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

Thanks for your cooperation!

APPENDIX B:
2011 CRW TEACHER 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.

- Overall, I was pleased with the quality and variety of presentations. Museum of Art was least helpful as I highly doubt I will use the reference library. Suzuki presentation felt more like an advertisement.
- Most workshops were really beneficial. Was disappointed we did not use any of the museum collections in the workshop except for irregular polygons which is leaving in July. Programs were informational, fun, and so worth it!
- In the beginning I wasn't sure if I would like the workshop. I teach Science and was having a difficult time connecting things to my curriculum. The visit to Imagination Station and WGTE hooked me. I saw many applications there and plan to put them to use.
- I thought it was fantastic; well-organized and worth using a week of my vacation. I'm very excited about teaching next year.
- I thought I knew the community well but this opened my eyes to new ideas, and ways I can integrate resources & materials in my lessons.
- This was my first experience, it was wonderful information.
- This workshop was wonderful. Learned many new things all week. I like all the different resources you exposed us to. (online, resources, Blade, Zoo, etc)
- Many of the sessions had lots of talking. Like students - we want to do to to understand new ideas.
- I am sincerely touched by the amount of effort you all put into this week! I really feel special and I feel that I owe it to you all and of course the students to make full use of everything you exposed us to!
- The hands-on activities were the best aspect. The sit and just listen were a little boring.
- This workshop was a lot of fun. I learned many new ways to bring the community into the classroom.
- I appreciate the work that has gone into this excellent workshop. All of this will be expressed in my classroom.
- This was an incredibly busy week learning a variety of info in the content areas - esp. science and math I think this also showed me the vast wealth of great things in Toledo.
- Very detailed and great for learning about our area! Loved the variety of resources we were able to experience.
- Great resources! Can you change it up more each year to allow us to take it again to learn even more about what we can do.
- Think the walking tour should happen at the beginning of the week. Start times should all be the same.
- It is such an invaluable experience. I wish it was required of all teachers.
- This workshop was the most worthwhile learning experience. I gained ideas to use in my classroom to teach all subjects and for cross curricular activities. A lot of the information I can adapt to use in my school's area and with varying levels of ability students.
- This workshop was excellent. I was unaware of all the resources available and the willingness & funds for making these services available. I will share this info with my school.

- I truly enjoyed each and every session. I knew there were many local gems in the Toledo area, but not to their full extent.
- The workshop was wonderful, offered a lot of creative ways to include project-based and problem-based strategies in my classroom.
- This workshop is one of the best I have attended. It presented the wealth of community resources available to use in & around the Toledo Area.
- It was an awesome opportunity to become aware of the endless resources.
- The workshop was good.
- OMG - it was an exciting but exhausting week - I will admit there were some things I got a little bored w/or won't use (rare book collect, Geaneology dept, etc.) But SO MUCH to use in my room that I didn't know about!
- So helpful- gave my ideas as a parent but also as an educator - did not realize so many places correlated activities aligned w/state standards
- Definitely applicable. Didn't care for Toledo Blade. Leader never waited for all 25 of us to gather before speaking. She always started when only 6-10 people were near. Needed an activity at Challenger center when waiting turn to do flight. Waited 20-30 minutes w/ nothing to do. Heard about too much art work in library. Children's library art was enough. Would have liked a chance to look up stuff about home town.
- I thought the workshop was overall well done. I was not crazy about the Art Museum, as I was a bit disappointed we couldn't tour the Art Museum. The symphony presentation seemed more like a plug in for themselves. I enjoyed the walking tour, Imag. Station, Lourdes, Fifth 3rd field etc
- The people were knowledgeable about their topics and friendly. I liked that they put it out that they will come to the schools. I like having activity ideas for students. Even though I don't currently have my own class, I am excited that I would have something to share w/ the teachers I meet while subbing.
- I enjoyed the CRW in all aspects. The most exciting was the space shuttle experience.
- I thought all of the information was valuable and we were given great information for classroom use
- This was so useful & informative - I learned so much that I believe I can use to enhance my teaching. Everything was so organized & efficient - NWO is great - I have always had great experiences.
- Wow! There is so much info packed into each day. I enjoyed all of it, especially the "hands on" activities. Also, it is so good to have all the hand-outs & websites to be able to go back & refer to the info later.
- Really appreciated all the material shared.
- It was an amazing experience. I did not realize so many unique & useful resources were available
- This was very educational - I am just sad that Pi R2 was closed out and that I will not get an opportunity for that part until next year.
- Very educational. I learned things - so I will be able to share with students
- I felt slighted because I teach at the High School level & few resources discussed were specifically for High School students.
- Go to Walleye not just Mud Hens.

- NO DANCING NEEDED/Necessary to make that concept/ approach understandable.
- Didn't really like the dancing. Other than that it was a lot of fun and very informative!
- Zoo - at the beginning split into groups so we could hear the first part about the elephants better. Over all good!
- Great overall! Some seminars/workshops dragged on, when others didn't seem to have enough time. Example: museum was long, 5/3 field, wolcott house, nature's nursery, botanical garden had to squeeze in time & rush.
- Everything was great! - All of it
- This workshop was absolutely awesome! The experiences were valuable and I gained many new ideas for supplementing my curriculum.

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

- I was most surprised by how many organizations are willing to come into the classroom for a nominal fee. I also discovered more opportunities for professional development.
- Loved the walking tour of Toledo History - Something I never really considered doing - Technology - I wanted more - learned a lot!
- Imagination Station hands on science. WGTE - technology connections; I'm teaching computer for the middle school this year!
- The hands on activities that I can use with my students.
- I felt it was all very useful but I especially valued the library, Art Museum, zoo, and WGTE.
- New field trip and presentation ideas.
- Finding out what is out there for us to use free or at a very low cost.
- The hands on ideas I can use in my classrooms
- The behind the scenes, one on one interaction with the CRW leaders and partners. It was truly invaluable.
- The ideas from the Life Lab, Metroparks, Art Museum were most useful for me in Kindergarten. The concepts and activities fit our standards.
- The hands on learning.
- The hands-on! I put myself in the child's place. Learn - Learn - Learn!
- Um....all the possible contact info....
- Hands on activities and demonstrations - really drove home what resources are.
- Pi r2- actually getting the people to come in and not have to find the money to do it.
- Teacher resources available for free, the variety of resources available from a variety of places.
- Learning how many places understand the constraints of the classroom and are willing to work with teachers and come to them.
- Sharing and actually completing activities that I can see how these would work in my class.
- The session about the Blade as an educational tool. I will use this to reach across the curriculum to excite my students to read, question, search, and enjoy.

- Going to the places and touring. Wish we could have visited ALL the resources.
- Contact with great community resources and creative ideas for using them in the classroom.
- Maps & Directions helped us to find our destinations!
- Hands-on science ideas
- Knowing now where and how to get & use community resources.
- The lesson/ideas I can take & use right away - websites to use now
- Just getting so many useful resources - even though I may not use them immediately I now have them when needed in the future
- History of the community of Toledo.....brought much importance to where I live.
- A wide variety of resources - something for everybody!
- One of the things I liked best was that I was able to meet other teachers all over the area. They had many wonderful ideas to share and advice for me. I also like the variety of places we were able to learn about. I liked having plan for the day given also.
- I enjoyed everything. The resources that are available. Also, the funds that are possibly available since the schools are cut on their budgets.
- Learning about hands-on activities that can be done in the classroom also finding out what CR can come to the schools to teach a lesson.
- Finding out about the extent of the "outreach" services some places provide - zoo, metroparks, Sauder Village, etc.
- Hard to pick - definitely the written info to take with us so we can refer back.
- Enjoyed the whole week!
- All the websites for research lessons, that will connect to my classroom curriculum
- It was good to find out about what is available in more detail - I like knowing there are programs which will come to my school since we are limited to fieldtrips
- Hands on activities to share with students. Better to practice activities - so can share with students
- I met other teachers.
- Ways to use info in class and the many different Subjects it touches.
- The zoo presentation; in the past I used it as a free for all activity now I will provide activities.
- Everything! It was Great!
- All of the ideas on what is available for me to use.
- The zoo! The classroom visits, resource boxes, actual field trip. Incorporating all those throughout the year will be easy!
- I honestly can't pick between one specific aspect. I guess the place we visited but I can't choose just one.
- The most useful aspect was actually getting to visit and participate to experience the many different offerings. It makes more of an impact than just reading about a place or looking it up online.

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

- Some speakers were difficult to hear. I really appreciate the Toledo Blade/NIE subscription.
- Museum workshop- go on a tour we might be able to use with our students
- I think it went extremely well!
- The tour of downtown and the stadium was fun, but not as educationally beneficial for me.
- You might include: Penta, Boyer ship, and The Toledo Botanical Garden.
- It could only have been better if I taught all the things you showed us.
- Love it! Nice Job!
- This was very worthwhile.
- It would be nice if we could network amongst ourselves and maybe have access to each other's e-mails/ contact info outside of the workshop. Thank you!
- Possibly add networking time for grade levels.
- Do not go to the mudhens, go to the botanical garden instead.
- It was perfect for me!
- Keep lunch hours a bit more consistent - hard for those of us with health issues.
- ? Don't know right now! Loved it!!!
- Great Workshop
- Include fire museum, how about a trip to Kelly's Island!
- If there was just a way to do it all at a slower pace. Some things seemed rushed.
- The days are long and I am exhausted by today. I don't know if this can be modified because there's so much material to be shared with us!
- It was great the way it was. Very tiring though!
- I thought it was exceptional!
- More take-home materials, Lesson plans - ready to use.
- We need more movement (activity) in the afternoon it's hard to sit & listen after a meal and be attentive.
- Maybe not so much in a week - more days ex (10 days) not so rushed at each place - but I loved every minute of it - now a relaxing weekend! Thanks for the organization and great food!
- More time to network w/other teachers attending and get ideas from one another
- Stated earlier.
- Get rid of the symphony presentation - it wasn't very informative or useful to me. Let people see the glass pavilion at the Art Museum. Some of the venues were difficult to hear the speakers (Imagination Station too loud - speakers could not be heard on tours etc.)
- More moving around, sat too much.
- Keeping everything relevant to the classroom
- ?? It was Great Thank you.
- Possibly S.S. Boyer, Ritter Planetarium

- Longer than a week
- I would love to take this again and to have different venues to learn about.
- Walking tour - more places, Mud Hens - non game day
- The workshop is geared towards grade school teachers. I was not aware of this. It should be pointed out in the description of the class.
- Continue to give hands on info and ideas add more palces to week long tour. Very good!!!
- Take out the dance portion and spend more time talking about the resources @ Lourdes college, planitarium, etc.
- Get rid of the dance.
- Try not to jam so many in one day, especially one when afternoon was spent at one location.
- you can't really
- I don't see how you can improve the workshop. I was amazed at ow many different resources you could fit into each day.