

NSF Research Experiences for Teachers (RET)

Network Meeting at NSTA

Baltimore, MD

November 3, 2006

Participant Feedback

What I **liked** about this RET at NSTA network meeting

- Sharing experiences with other RET alumni. I didn't know RET existed in so many other universities.
- Meeting other RET participants and looking at the work they did.
- I like the different ideas given by the participants about bridging the curriculums of math and physical science.
- For someone not informed on the program, I found it very interesting and am encouraged to apply.
- Networking, hearing from other programs about others' experiences.
- Suggestions for improving RET programs.
- Hearing the presentations of the various teachers, especially the impacts and differences (i.e., difficulties) experienced in the program; seeing the products of the RETs (posters); snacks!
- The networking was extremely valuable. I have been involved for three years and I found the ability to discuss the non-content aspects of the program extremely enlightening.
- Networking opportunities; speaking with prospective RET members; sharing experiences with RET participants.
- Chance to hear directly from teachers about their experiences, both positive and negative.
- As a program administrator, it's great to get suggestions about program management, and hearing teachers' experiences is great.
- This meeting provided the opportunity to share experiences and information that can be used to improve RET programs. Thank you for allowing input.
- The shorter format (in the past it was a bit long); the collaborative environment; being able to hear about others' experiences.
- Presenting/discussion – feeling like I can help make changes to the program.
- I really liked the presentation given by NU RET. The format was also really good with the round-table introductions.
- The chance to speak with people about their different projects and experiences; the chance to see research posters --- really impressive!

What I would **change** for the next RET at NSTA network meeting

- Have a luncheon following, with RET alumni, staff, graduate students professors to mingle.
- Straight Poster Session, perhaps in a larger area where other people can see/talk/share the work of the poster display.
- More general information about the program.
- More lesson sharing session – give each other ideas to make engineering connections across science content – not so much on actual research, and actually do a lesson at NSTA.
- Posters or presentations need to be more focused on the lesson developed, not so much on the experience. Have people actually do the lesson with participants.
- The poster session in main NSTA hall ... this is science research, why not a central focus of our meeting?
- More advertisement through direct email invitations (not necessarily with travel stipends). I found it in the program book but did not know about it early.
- Posters open to more NSTA members; a longer time session.
- Larger meeting; possibly on session for past participants and another for the poster session and new teachers who are interested. Move posters to a more central location.
- Maybe make [the meeting] longer? It seems like there's so much to discuss, it's hard to fit into two hours.
- I like the idea of setting up posters in the exhibit halls; are there any NSF people who want to staff a booth about the program?
- Put "us" in the main area so others can "wander in" and see the posters ... so many teachers, but very little knowledge of the programs available.
- I would omit the three-question discussion because it took a lot of time. I preferred the format from last year in which questions were written on posters and people commented on each.

What I **suggest** for future RET at NSTA network meetings

- Have a luncheon following, with RET alumni, staff, graduate students professors to mingle. Also, allow more Powerpoint presentations showing application of engineering in classrooms.
- Put [poster session] in more accessible area for lots of people to see; invite graduate students/scientists to see what other groups are doing. Presentations that expose the basic concepts learned and the resulting lesson/module developed.
- Lesson-based research demonstrations for all RET to share; figure out how NSTA can work and be included with program.
- More lesson sharing. Encourage PIs to attend meetings; encourage potential RET directors to attend these meetings (what works and what doesn't).
- Critique of lesson plans developed (the good, the bad, the interesting).
- The posters are an interesting change. It might also be worth electronic distribution of results. I have used others' materials in the past.
- Lesson plans presented; more time for poster session.
- Is it possible to have more Powerpoint presentations by individuals? The networking and information sharing could be expanded.
- Try to get [program information] out to the outside community.
- Put "us" in the main area so others can "wander in" and see the posters ... so many teachers, but very little knowledge of the programs available.
- Great job! I'd like to see more participants in the RET program.
- Poster session in more visible place for the general public; a list of all possible college/universities that participate.

Additional comments

- Thank you!
- Thanks for the experience --- it was excellent!
- I enjoyed hearing real experiences.
- This is a great program. It provides the professional development that was once available through NSF but the more flexibility.
- It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to participate in this NSTA meeting (professionally and personally).
- I've already volunteered my services for NSTA-Boston --- whatever you need!
- Thank you so much for the travel grant. This trip has been very educational for me and I would have been unable to attend otherwise.