

EVALUATION OF A VIRTUAL PLANT SCIENCE PROGRAM FOR AGRISCIENCE TEACHERS

PROGRAM

- STEM-it Up: Everything You Need to Know to Get Your Floriculture Curriculum in Bloom program
 - 3-day conference in June 2020
- Designed using Desimone's (2009) framework for professional development
- Content focused on inquiry-based instruction, scientific thinking, current research on fresh cut flowers
- 22 teachers from 13 states selected to participate

PURPOSE

Describe participants' evaluations of the conference sessions to better inform future practice



PARTICIPANTS

- Majority Female (77.3%)
- White (100%)
- Average age = 39 years old
- Average years taught = 9.80
- 40.9% ($f = 9$) had previously taught another subject ($f = 9$)
- 54.5% ($f = 12$) taught at least one SBAE course for science credit

CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- All sessions were rated relevant and of good quality
- The program provided unintended strategies for teaching STEM virtually using online engagement tools
- High-quality PD can be conducted online and from a distance with intentional planning and use of Desimone's (2009) framework
- Modeling of inquiry-based laboratory instruction through online platforms motivated the teachers to alter their instructional practices

Findings from Evaluation:

Based on Session Type & Content Focus

Category	Relevance		Quality	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Inquiry-based lab session	3.51	0.59	3.37	0.83
Informational sessions	3.23	0.75	3.30	0.76
Day 1 = Photosynthesis & Transpiration	3.24	0.77	3.28	0.72
Day 2 = Translocation	3.36	0.70	3.44	0.77
Day 3 = Cellular Respiration & Plant Systems	3.31	0.68	3.24	0.84

*1 = not relevant/poor quality and 4 = very relevant/excellent quality