

ASEE NORTH MIDWEST SECTION CONFERENCE SURVEY
N=90

1. Have you ever attended an ASEE North Midwest Section Conference?

- Yes 38
- No 52

2. If Yes to Question 1, how many ASEE North Midwest Section Conferences have you attended?

- 1-3 31
- 4-6 7
- 7-10 2
- > than 10 3

3. From your personal perspective, what are the benefits of the value of attendance at an ASEE North Midwest Section Conference?

new teaching ideas, meeting colleagues at other schools, chance to present a paper

Networking. Finding out what my peers are working on.

A NMWS ASEE conference provides an opportunity to share ideas and experiences with colleagues within the region.

Travel time and cost are minimized relative to national conferences. We share regional influences that impact the programs we offer and student/industry expectations. A regional conference should allow us the opportunity to make contact with potential guest speakers who are close enough to allow visits at minimum cost and with minimum disruption of commitments at their home institutions.

Meeting with colleagues at other campuses

Time to talk about teaching

Networking with peers. To discuss pedagogy and ABET requirements.

1) Learning about latest and greatest in engineering education research at local level for a relatively low price. 2) Professional networking at local level. Helps me "Think globally, act locally".

Excellent sessions. You really get to make personal connections with other teachers. The conferences are small enough that you aren't overwhelmed.

Focuses on teaching. Networking with people doing similar things. Sharing ideas.

Interacting and learning from peer engineering educators.

regional contacts

Time to talk, one-on-one, with other people whose primary mission is engineering education. The papers presented also provide a source of ideas, though most the value still comes from talking with the authors after a presentation session.

People of the Region get to meet and exchange views on matters of mutual interest
Networking with people in a small setting.

Informal, chance to meet others in the region that are interested in improving education, chance to present own work in this area

See best practices in engineering education, meet people with similar interests in our region

The conference I attended helped me learned a lot of things in a very short time. You do not go around discussing many educational endeavours every day but a chance to discuss and listen to many of those does help.

To meet faculty and professionals to exchange ideas and learn from others.

networking seeing good ideas being able to share some of my ideas

Great opportunity to meet our faculty from Midwestern universities

Talking to teaching professionals

Meeting faculty from other universities. Learning what is going on at other universities.

Some of the papers were very interesting and/or useful.

Networking with faculty in the midwest.

Networking with local peers - gaining new ideas from what others are doing.

1. Make connection to the colleague in the North Midwest section. 2. Find out what other people are doing. 3. Collection information useful to our education and research.

Networking; learning new teaching techniques, tricks, etc.

Intimate relationships with fellow attendees.

Networking, some new ideas, tours

Networking.

Building relationships with other school's faculty members.

It is a great casual atmosphere to interact with colleagues and get feedback on things that I am trying with my students. The fact that it is just regional helps to focus on communicating challenges and resources that pertain to our area.

Staying abreast of ways to improve engineering education. Visiting with other faculty regarding engineering education. Keynote speakers often provide new innovative topics.

Meeting colleagues. Finding out what is being done at regional universities.

to know people in the same region

A chance to interact with other professionals in the region. Form collaborations. Hear about interesting projects being sponsored by my local "competition."

More contact with individual members. Chances to network.

Connecting with others and knowing what's done in the area. Encouraging collaboration.

1) Find out about innovations in teaching. 2) Regional networking with others interested in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

It is always valuable to hear and see what other educators are doing.

Networking and seeing some of the innovative ideas faculty are developing and utilizing in their classes.

It's an opportunity to network with other local engineering institutions and learn what others are doing in their classrooms.

4. *What suggestions do you have for improving future conference offerings that would attract you to attend the Section Conference?*

Almost all of my travel is to promote my engineering program to prospective students, and not to network with other universities or do professional development. The program would need to offer student/industry networking opportunities to make it truly worthwhile to me, or be very strong in best practices.

I am especially interested in facilitating strong capstone for engineering and engineering technology students and strategies for teaching using student teams.

Just keep having them. I'll come. I liked the short format offered this year.

Perhaps look into a web-based conferencing idea?

Not many suggestions as this is one of my favorite conferences.

Lower registration charge and shorter duration of conference

Feature a guest speaker or a working panel on a topic that is of current local interest. There are many interesting initiatives that would complement the presentations by members. Feature a speaker from a local industry who can/will speak to issues relating to their personnel needs. Run workshops on specific topics (assessment, alternate means of incorporating "soft" skills, providing EIT related mini courses to fill in voids in undergraduate programs, or?).

Visit labs at other campuses

Technical discussions, research and teaching workshops.

Schedule it off class time - seems a little odd to take time away from classes to go to an education conference

access to companies
I can't think of any

Better promotion

Highlight success stories like the engineering school at Clemson doing a SCALEUP classroom.

1) Workshops on academic best practices, and active discussions. 2) Publication of a transcript of these discussions available to members on the websites.

As far as the conference itself, I'm not sure anything needs to change. I have enjoyed the cocktail party social events, the dinners, etc. -- all chances to talk with other attendees. The papers are always excellent, as are the big speakers.

It seems that often it is the same people. We need to figure out a way to get those people to bring their colleagues. Maybe an award to the university who has the most presenters.

The one day event, like at ST. Cloud State, was ideal.

I didn't even know there was one, so I'd suggest better marketing as a start. ;-)

location, location, location - nearby attractions and collaborations

While a "theme" can be useful for these conferences, I think it is important to emphasize that papers covering a broad set of topics can be submitted to any conference. I have not attended one or two ASEE regional conferences because the theme of the conference was too narrow. I also believe that time to talk with people one-on-one is important. For example, at this year's conference I would have rather had the lunch time without the panel. The panel discussion interrupted several very good conversations that were going on at our table.

1) Send out info. 3 months in advance, 2) Invite prominent speakers, 3) Shorten the meeting to one day, or a day and a half

Reduced costs (though I know this is unlikely to happen).

I attend when I have something to present. If I don't have a project of my own, I am unlikely to attend the meeting. But this is the case with national meetings as well, not due to some specific limitation of the section meeting.

I think the conferences are valuable, but it is really a time problem with me. I attend about 1-2 conferences per year, and they have to be research-oriented for the papers to be recognized by our college. Research on engineering education is considered low-value.

The deadlines are short. I have tried many times to try to put a paper together and then attend but busy schedules do not allow that. If we can arrange a longer heads up, i would definitely love to participate and attend.

We could have had more presenters and sponsor exhibition show.

I cannot travel at the time the conference is held right now. Earlier would help.

Better papers, a closer location

You do not need annual meetings. Really, how much educational institutions change in one year. Perhaps, once every three years is enough.

If it is during the semester, make it a saturday.

Relevant agenda

Help in teaching methods, and in ABET requirements

None.

Early notification of conference venue, dates and session topics.

I really do not have an answer

Improved quality of presentations.

Only a limited number of papers are high quality, following good research methods, and are easily generalizable to other universities. Many are poorly written and are intended primarily to pad resumes. They are not worth my time. Peer review is just a formality.

Recognition from the administration that attendance matters.

We need to increase the value or the perceived value for attending the section conference. New faculty at institutions might be the place to start. Offering workshops that would be of interest to engineering faculty, especially new faculty, could work. Topics in course development, learning styles, rubrics etc. could be offered on a rotating basis would be attractive. New faculty in the region would be able to network and help grow interest in the Section Conf.

The timing is very awkward to attend in the fall. In the fall, I already travel to FIE and have a lot of other startup items going on. A time later in the academic year would be more conducive to travel.

Keep the theme(s) as general as possible.

Large schools don't participate.

It will be helpful if the papers in the conference proceedings can be accessed from the conference website.

more social

I have been very pleased with the sectional conferences that I have attended. Maybe a larger student presence.

Combine with an industrial show or more seminars on specific subjects.

More coordination on campus. I'd be more inclined to go with others as a group.

I felt that there was not much that was directly valuable to 2-year college engineering instructors. I realize that there were not many 2-year instructors when I last attended a Section Conference (probably in 2005), but if there would be some interest in 2-year college programs I would again attend.

None really.

- Conference occurs at a very busy time of the year for me. - Having some workshops/special sessions about incorporating and implementing evidence based best practices into faculty courses and curriculum. - Bring in keynote speakers that get the conference to focus on larger scale innovation not the micro scale or low level innovation discussion that seem to be the focus of this conference

Not sure, I have just joined this year.

5. *What are some of the obstacles or deterrents that could prevent, or at least discourage you, from attending a Section Conference?*

Location is a factor.

This is my first year as a faculty member; before this I had a student membership in ASEE, therefore, my availability and budget for travel was limited. Presently, my major obstacles are time and money, however, I would like to attend a North Midwest Section meeting in the future if it fits into my schedule.

Schedule conflicts.

Commitments to other activities, time

Increasing course/work loads. Travel budget does not permit me to attend as many conferences as I would like.

The program seems irrelevant to my teaching, or I do not know how the conference can improve my teaching.

As a Canadian, I have had difficulties with the tendency to hold the NMS meeting on the weekend of our Thanksgiving. Admittedly there are not a large number of Canadian members in the NMW Section, but timing excludes us. WRT future conferences, my prime personal deterrent is pending retirement. But I'm sure you can attract a less grumpy Canadian contingent if you avoid Thanksgiving.

\$ for travel & registration

Contents.

Travel time. Missing class days during the semester.

Class schedule

costs

When I cannot attend it is usually because of some campus events which I feel compelled to be present for. Examples are "Parent's Weekend," "Engineering Campus Visit Day," etc. I doubt there is anything the North Midwest Section can do to improve the timing. I generally like having the conference in the early fall, even if there are conflicts once in a while.

Limited funding, relevance of topics

It would be good for the conference papers to have a natural path toward a peer reviewed journal. 1) Timing. I can't always find time from my schedule to attend a section conference. Winter break or Summer would be the ideal time. I can drive longer distances to attend conference without having to worry about preparation for classes to teach next week. 2) Location. I can attend within 2-4 hour driving distance of TC area. Anything beyond this becomes a stretch. My institution doesn't have funds to provide for my travel. To that end, I have an idea: Why not have colleagues who cannot attend participate by way of WebEx or such technological means? They pay reduced fee....Thus we have greater participation. Not sure about other institution, but at my workplace (2 Yr comm college), we do have means to do this if we can request our IT folks about a couple of months in advance.

Honestly, the only thing that keeps me from attending the Section conference is distance and travel inconvenience. I love that the Section Conferences are at member schools, but if they were held in major cities, my travel would be much easier (because of trains, planes, freeway access, etc.). Of course, then cost might become an issue (paying for the venue, more expensive hotels, etc.). So maybe the answer is: I attend when the conference is easy for me to get to, and other years, it'll be easy for someone else to get to.

Really busy with other things.

Lack of funding from my home institution when attending but not presenting a paper.

Timing. Finals week or adjacent weeks are a bad idea especially.

too many conferences and too little money for professional development, so choices are difficult but national conferences generally win out in making decisions.

As noted in the previous question, a narrow conference theme can be a deterrent. Also, distance is a deterrent. For example, I will not make next year's conference because it is too far away.

I personally attend, every year, FIE which takes place same time as NM Section, which prevents me from being a regular attendee of ASEE NM Section meetings.

Timing is a issue. It is difficult for me to allocate time during the semester to attend. I always attend the ASEE annual meeting because is in the Summer. I know this is difficult to resolve and it doesn't make too much sense having the regional one also during the summer. Cost and location may also be issues to me.

Tight schedules - my calendar fills up 6 months to 1 year ahead of time. As budgets tighten, I'm also having to consider reducing travel where possible. There is not really much you can do about these issues though.

The length of drive is an issue. Because a presentation at this meeting does not carry the weight of a peer-reviewed publication or national conference submission, I don't want to spend the funds to fly and I don't want to miss more teaching sessions than absolutely necessary.

Time availability, low value placed on ASEE papers in our college.

If the conference cost is high and the session talks are not too attractive.

NONE.

Deadlines conflicting with busy time of year/semester. Cost Time of year and costs.

Lack of additional members going, limited travel funds, would like to present a paper but haven't had time to write.

Distance to the conference Poor paper quality

time, cost, lack of real new content to justify time and money spent for the meeting

Cost, distance, and time.

None known. Just too many conferences and too little time.

schedule conflicts

Money; not speaking.

If I am attending the national meeting, I would not attend the sectional meeting due the time and expense involved in attending two meetings of the same organization.

Scheduling would be the main one.

Time

No.

Primarily research Too many meetings to attend Time away from classroom 9-month appointments forces 12 months into 9

Travel distance.

Low quality papers are not worth my time away from class.

Timing. It is always scheduled during the academic year, when it is difficult to get away. I tend to attend summer conferences.

Too low on the priority list. Not related to my technical field.

Time - it's hard to get free from campus during the school year my schedule - see above cost of travel - this conference is generally extremely reasonable compared to most conferences but the money still has to come from somewhere.

Timing. Location / ease of travel.

The long distance travel sometimes discourages us and specific narrow subject themes.
None usually lack of funds

It usually depends on when it is scheduled and that has nothing to do with the conference itself.
Budget in recent years has made it a bit more difficult.

Timing too close to another conference (FIE,etc)

During the semester and missing classes.

The fact that the conference is during school is an issue--it's hard to get away while classes are in session.

Nothing due to costs or location. Again, I need a feeling that there is something useful for 2-year college programs.

The main deterrent is that likely everyone else, I have too many demands on my time.

- time of the year - discussion topics are currently not transformative enough for me to justify the time for attending

Location and costs attached.

Distance, primarily.

time of the year as it is the busiest for me in fall with heavy teaching load