Sea to Shining Sea (StSS) Live Interactive Virtual Explorations (LIVE)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RESEARCH LEARNING CENTER

StSS Workshop at NAI

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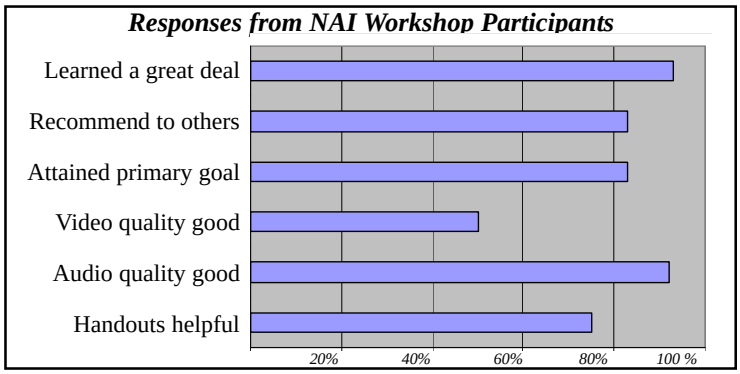
Introduction

The Sea to Shining Sea (StSS) project team works closely with the National Science Foundation funded High Performance Wireless Research and Education Network (HPWREN) on perfecting the development and implementation of the Live Interactive Virtual Explorations (LIVE) pilot project. Specifically, the StSS team concentrates on an inexpensive, easy- to-use LIVE backpack system for broadcasts between National Parks and an array of education sites. A workshop demonstrating use of the LIVE backpack system was conducted at the 2009 Conference for the National Association for Interpretation (NAI); workshop evaluations are discussed in this summary.



EVALUATION SUMMARY

Participants at the NAI workshop learn about the use of StSS LIVE backpacks at their specific NPS sites throughout the USA. Photo Credits: Julia Washburn

Evaluation Methods

During 2008-2009, approximately 20 StSS LIVE broadcasts took place between National Parks and education sites such as rural schools, Native American reservations, museums, and professional conferences. In addition, four training sessions for National Park Service staff, partners, scientists, and educators were conducted in 2009 - including a workshop at the 2009 Conference for the National Association for Interpretation. The workshop evaluation encompassed Likert-scale questions and six open-ended questions. Survey respondents consisted of National Park Service staff and educators that teach subject areas ranging from science to history.

Results and Discussion

Among survey respondents, 92 percent agreed that they learned a great deal from the workshop, the information was presented effectively, and there were sufficient hands-on opportunities. Eighty-three percent of survey respondents agreed that their primary goal in attending the workshop was attained, that they would recommend future workshops to others, and they would like to establish a LIVE program at their sites. Seventy-five percent agreed that the workshop handouts were helpful. Ninety-two percent agreed that the audio quality was good while only 50 percent agreed that the video quality was good; this response was due to demonstration of a variety of video qualities ranging from satellite, DSL, and broadband (HPWREN). The StSS team continues to explore and improve a variety of options for point-to-point and point-to-multi-point video conferencing.

Sources

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http://seatoshiningsea.org
http://hpwren.ucsd.edu/LIVE
http://researchlearningcenter.org