

IJSHS Evaluation

This assessment was conducted at the conclusion of the Intermountain Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in March of 2009. The purposes of the symposium include providing high school students, who are conducting original research, the opportunity to present their research to university faculty and their peers, to get feedback on their research, to learn about research that is being conducted on a university campus, and to expose them to the University of Utah.

Key Findings:

- When asked what the students liked best about the symposium, 36% answered the tours. This was followed by the Physics is Fun demo at 19%; the food at 17%; interacting with other people at 16%; and going to the Gateway Mall and Planetarium at 12%. Many also noted that they really enjoyed the presentations.
- The participants were also asked what they would like to see included in the symposium next year. The overwhelming majority cited more tours, with some specifically asking for more interactive tours.
- A handful of participants complained that the schedule was too packed; not enough free time. Another handful complained that there was too much free time.
- Several respondents noted that they would like to have had more of an opportunity to see what this University has to offer them for higher education.

Actions Taken

- We will continue to have a similar format as to what we had this year. However, next year we will try to repeat the tours at least once so the participants could do four tours instead of only two. This would also use up some of the extra down time we had this year. Additionally, we will seek out lab tours that can be more hands on.
- We will also try to find time to provide an information session specifically on the University of Utah and perhaps a formal campus tour.

Office objective(s) associated with this assessment

- Provide future student groups and their families academically enriching experiences and programs on campus.
- Develop collaborative initiatives with colleges, departments, faculty, alumni, and members of the larger community to enhance the overall recruitment efforts of the University.