AERO Fall Conference Feedback – Summary
The Science of Learning
December 4th, 2015

Response Rate
- 52 people filled out the survey. 86 attended the conference (including the presenters). The response rate was 60%.

Role
- 45% were researchers, the other 55% comprised of Ministry of Education staff, school administrators, students, support service staff, teachers, coordinators, and MISA/GIARE

Specific Aspects of the Conference

	Strongly Agree	Agree
My expectations for the AERO conference were met.	62% (32)	38% (20)
There was enough time provided to share ideas.	50% (26)	33% (17)
There was enough time provided to ask questions.	54% (28)	44% (23)
There was enough time to network with other participants.	49% (25)	29% (15)
The conference was enhanced by the use of the Twitter wall.	35% (18)	24% (12)

Overall Experience
- Overall, participants enjoyed the conference, enjoyed the opportunity, and said that it was a wonderful day. 100% rated their overall experience as excellent or good.
- Overall, participants connected with the research and are excited to meet with colleagues to share, discuss, integrate, and apply the wealth of knowledge (including links to research literature) learned at their boards/practice.
- Generally people felt that there was a great balance between fact, data, evidence, technical aspects, and personal case studies; it was well geared to the audience, and applicable to their role in education.

Presentations
- Overall, participants felt that the speakers were amazing, engaging, excellent, fantastic, informative, timely, and presented their work clearly.
- Many people expressed that they appreciated both Dr. Joe Kim and Dr. Daniel Ansari's presentations because the information was applicable to schools/school boards.

Resources
- A few people mentioned that they liked getting the APA resource as prior reading.
- Some people mentioned that they would have liked copies of the PowerPoints/research prior to the conference.

Format of the Day
- **Panel Discussion –** some people commented that they liked the panel discussion, appreciated the consolidation at the end, and it was suggested to continue to have them.
- **Table Discussions –** a few people commented that they liked the questions asked both of the presenters and the participants, it was mentioned that people were having engaging discussions at the tables and in the room, and some people wanted more time to share ideas, reflect, and discuss.
- **Networking –** some people mentioned that it was great meeting new peers and building valuable connections, whereas others wanted more time to network and connect with colleagues.
- **Graffiti Chart –** a few people would be interested in reading a summary of the "What are you working on?"

Twitter Wall
- Some people commented that it is a great way to have a record of the day.
- Some people stated that the Twitter wall provided good resources, and a few suggested that it would be more helpful later and not during the presentations.
- Some people commented that the Twitter wall was distracting.

Suggestions for Future Conferences
Overall
- More multimedia/visual presentations.

Format
- Continue to have panel discussions.
- Have two speakers and more time for table discussions as well as a panel discussion.
- Have smaller breakout sessions to network and share how the content is being used or not used at other Boards.
- Provide time for colleagues to collaborate with each other.

Presentations
- Provide a balance of topics (more practical sessions, including applications and modeling) for researchers and teachers/school staff.
- Continue to bring in researchers from colleges/universities and presenters from District School Boards.

AERO Fall Conference Graffiti Wall – Summary
The Science of Learning
December 4th, 2015

Comments below are taken directly from the Graffiti Wall.

What are you and your colleagues currently working on?
- Assessing mental health needs
- Differentiated instruction
- Equity in education
- EQAO OSSLT percent pass rates
- Gifted children and how school boards cater to their needs
- How to assess foundational (numeracy/literacy) and 21st century learning skills
- How to share the learning with educators/administrators who are closest to the students
- Re-thinking secondary school programming
- Student achievement:
  What are students achieving? Durable learning? Marks to get into university.
- Use of qualitative data to drive improvement

What are the pressing concerns for educational researchers in Ontario?
- Getting others to ask "why?"
- Knowledge mobilization
- Measuring impact though triangulation
- How to improve student learning and engagement in secondary applied courses and analyze the perspective of applied courses among students, parents, and educators
- Student achievement gaps
- Research on student well-being
- Research vs. assumptions