



Report:

Processes and Practices for Cultivating Meaningful Community-Academic Partnerships: *From Concept to Action*

April 27, 2023

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Hybrid

Overview

Cultivating community and academic partnerships can be accelerated by fostering meaningful dialogue and finding common ground in the earliest stages of partnerships. To foster such connections, this workshop will offer strategies and provide tools for researchers and community stakeholders, so they are better prepared to collaborate equitably and interact effectively. This is the first of a series of four workshops offered in 2023.

The recording of this session can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/n1GVyzcu6is>



Agenda

6:00 PM	Dinner & Networking	All
6:30 PM	Welcome CHECK-UP Overview & Updates	Hayley S. Thompson, PhD
6:40 PM	Community-Engaged Research Overview	Carrie Leach, PhD, MPA
6:50 PM	Laying the Foundation for Successful Community-Engaged Partnerships	Chandra McMillion
7:05 PM	Equity in Partnership	Rodlescia Sneed, PhD, MPH
7:20 PM	Growing Together: Lessons Learned in Establishing & Maintaining Partnership: A Case Study	Elizabeth Towner, PhD
7:35 PM	Question & Answer	All
7:55 PM	Wrap-Up & Evaluation	Hayley S. Thompson, PhD
8:00 PM	End	

Presenters



Chandra McMillion
CEO & Founder of McMillion Group



Carrie Leach, PhD, MPA
Institute of Gerontology,
CURES & CHECK-UP, WSU



Rodlescia Sneed, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor,
Institute of Gerontology &
Department of Psychology,
Wayne State University



Elizabeth Towner, PhD
Family Medicine & Public Health
Sciences, School of Medicine, WSU

Registration:

Total Registered: 89

Total Attendees: 47

Participation Rate: 52.8%

Attendee Background

Demographic information was only available for 43 of 47 attendees.

Job/Work Role	Total Attendees
Wayne State University Faculty	14
Wayne State University Staff	2
Community Member/Resident	6
Community-based Health Care Professional	3
Community Organization Leader or Representative	7
Other University Faculty or Staff	0
Student	7
Other	4

Community organization leaders or representatives who attended work for the following:

- National Council of Negro Women- Detroit
- St. Patrick's Senior Center
- MI LEND Program
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- Detroit Community Care Network
- Headlands Research

And, they hold the following roles/titles at these organizations:

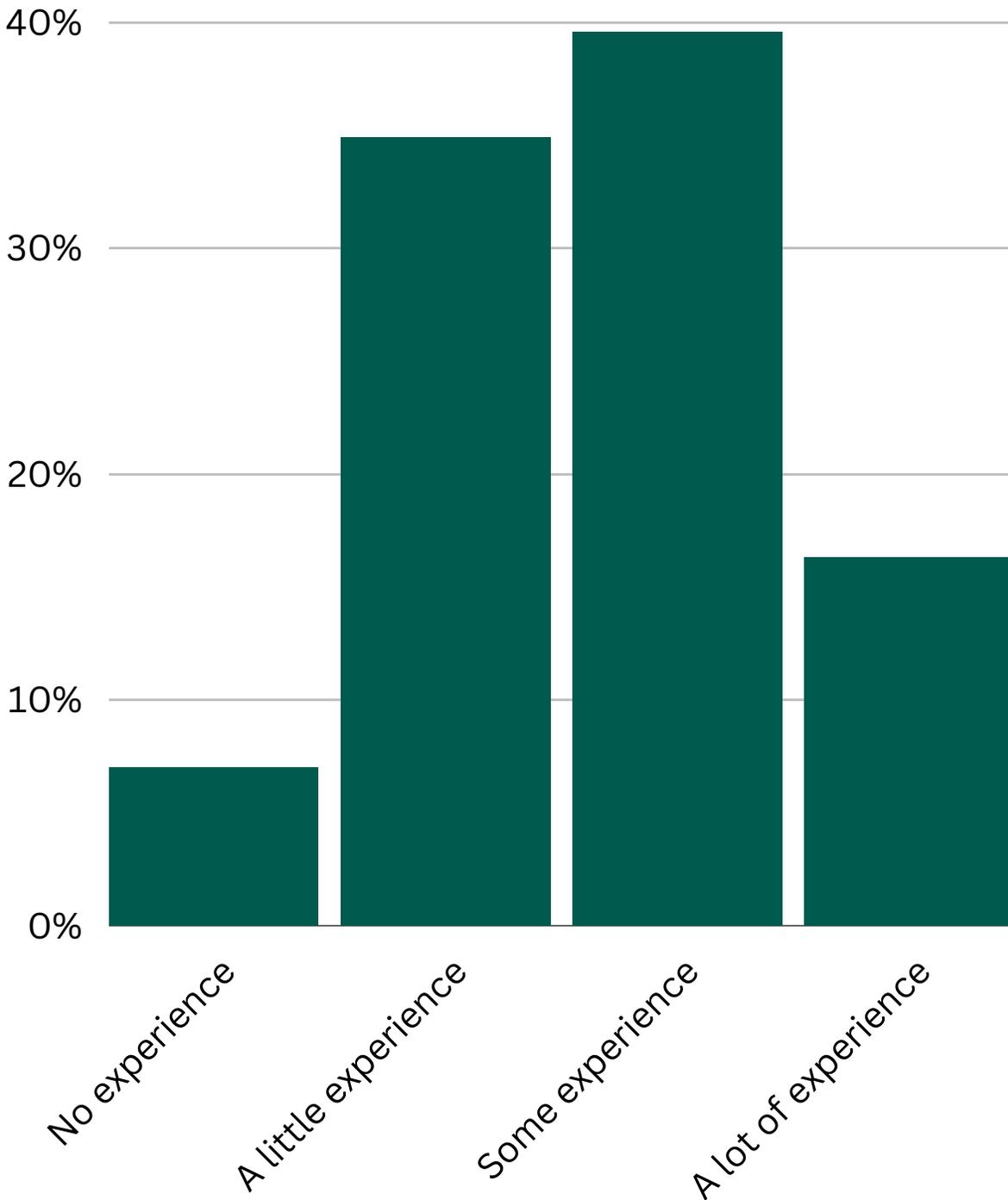
- Wellness Clinic Manager
- President
- Community Outreach Specialist
- Managing Director
- Community Outreach Manager

WSU faculty and staff represented these departments:

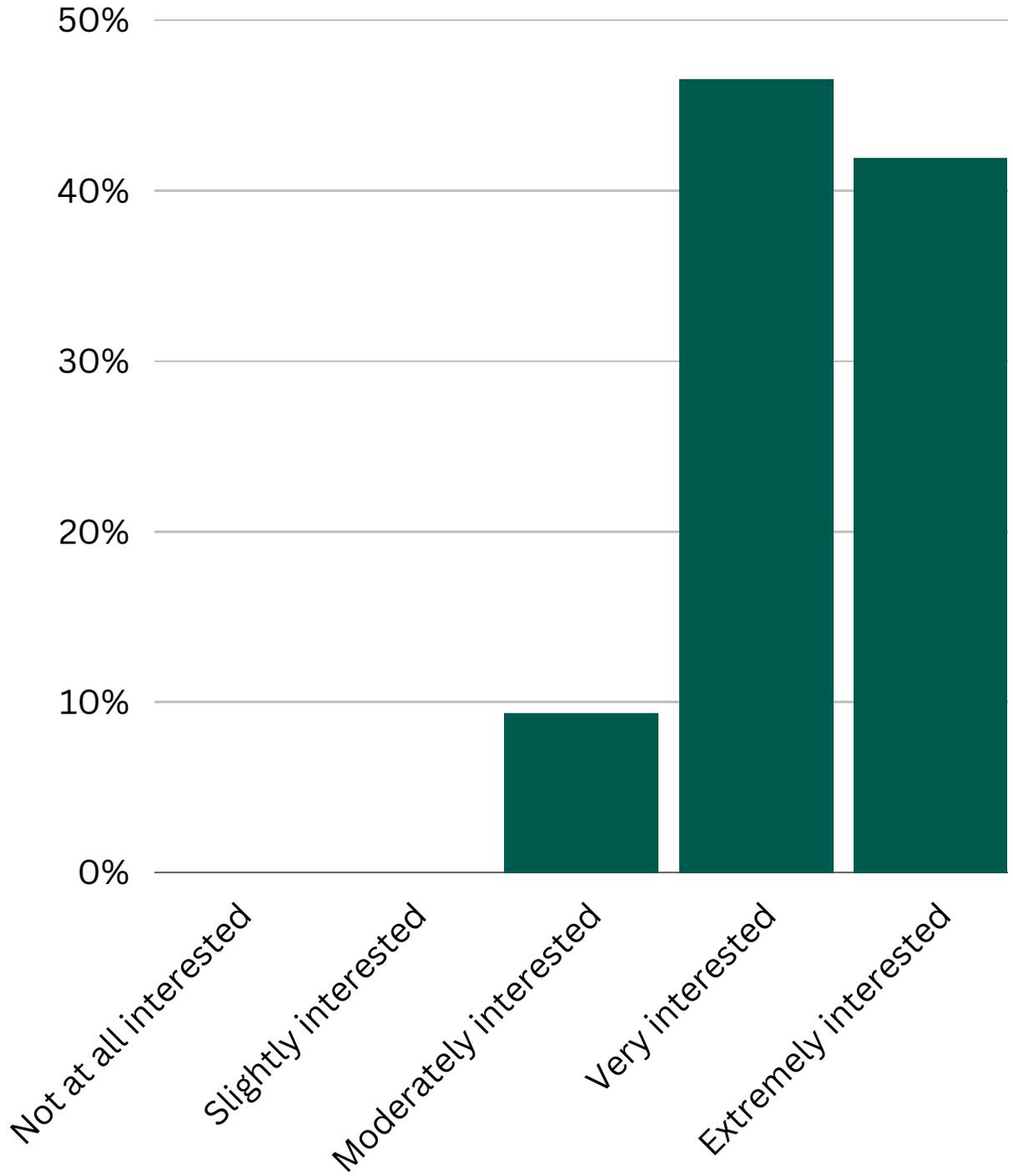
- School of Medicine
- School of Business
- Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors
- School of Social Work
- College of Pharmacy
- Institute of Gerontology
- Sociology

Community-engaged research is the process of working collaboratively with groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interests, or similar situations with respect to issues affecting their well-being and meaningfully involving those groups affected by a research finding in the research process (CDC (1997); Staniszewski et al. (2014).

How much experience have you had with community-engaged research?



What is your level of interest in community-engaged research?



Attendee research interests:

Research Interests	Total Attendees
Community Engagement	31
Health Disparities	26
Black Health	24
Social Determinants of Health	21
Behavioral Health	19
Basic Social Needs	16
Public Health	14
Chronic Disease	12
Other	11
Women's Health	11
Cancer	7
Children's Health	7
Physical Activity & Nutrition	6
Environmental Health	5
LGBTQ Health	4
Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) Health	3
Refugee Health	3
Basic Science	2
Immigrant Health	2
Rural Health	2
HIV and AIDS	1

Other research interests include:

- Aging & older adult health
- Alzheimer's & related dementias
- Genetics
- Biomarkers
- Arts in medicine
- Health organization strategic change
- Community development
- Economic development
- Justice-involved populations
- Housing justice
- Climate justice
- Racial justice

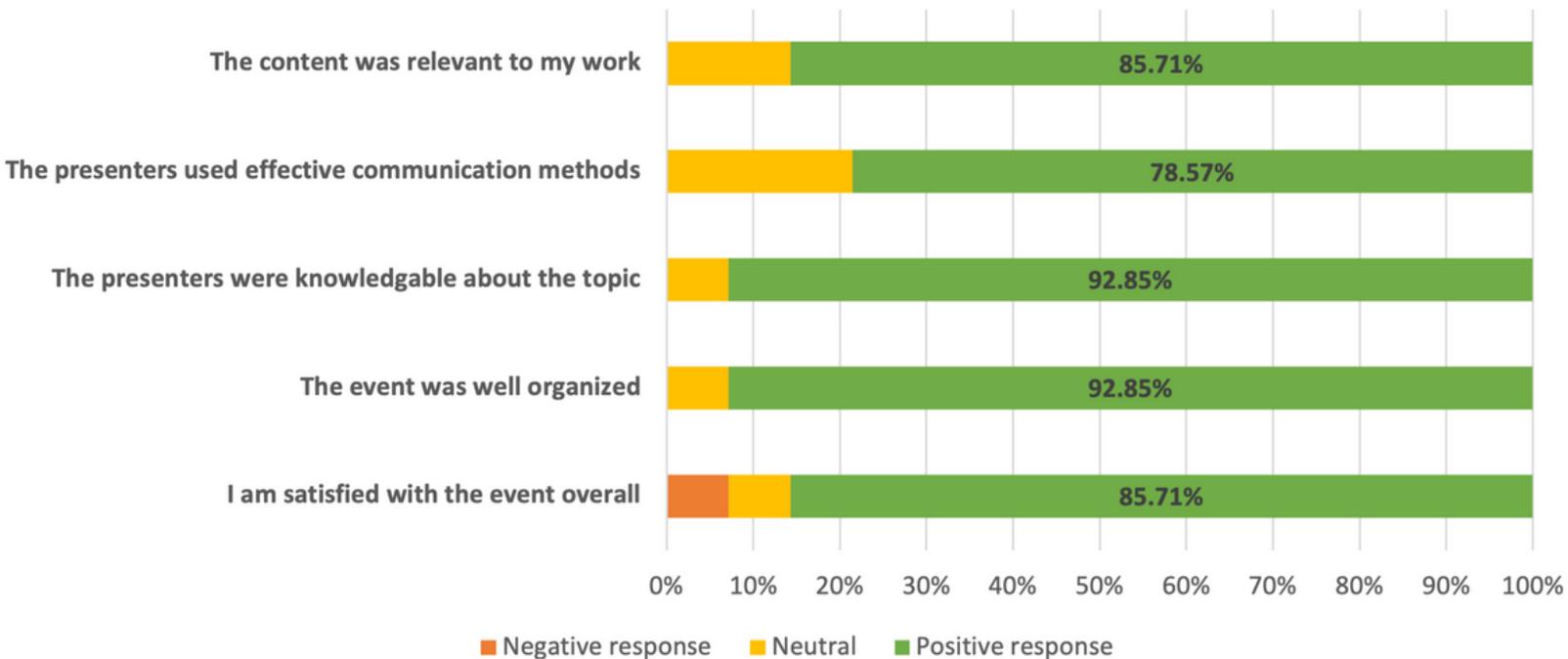
Evaluation:

Fourteen attendees completed the evaluation.

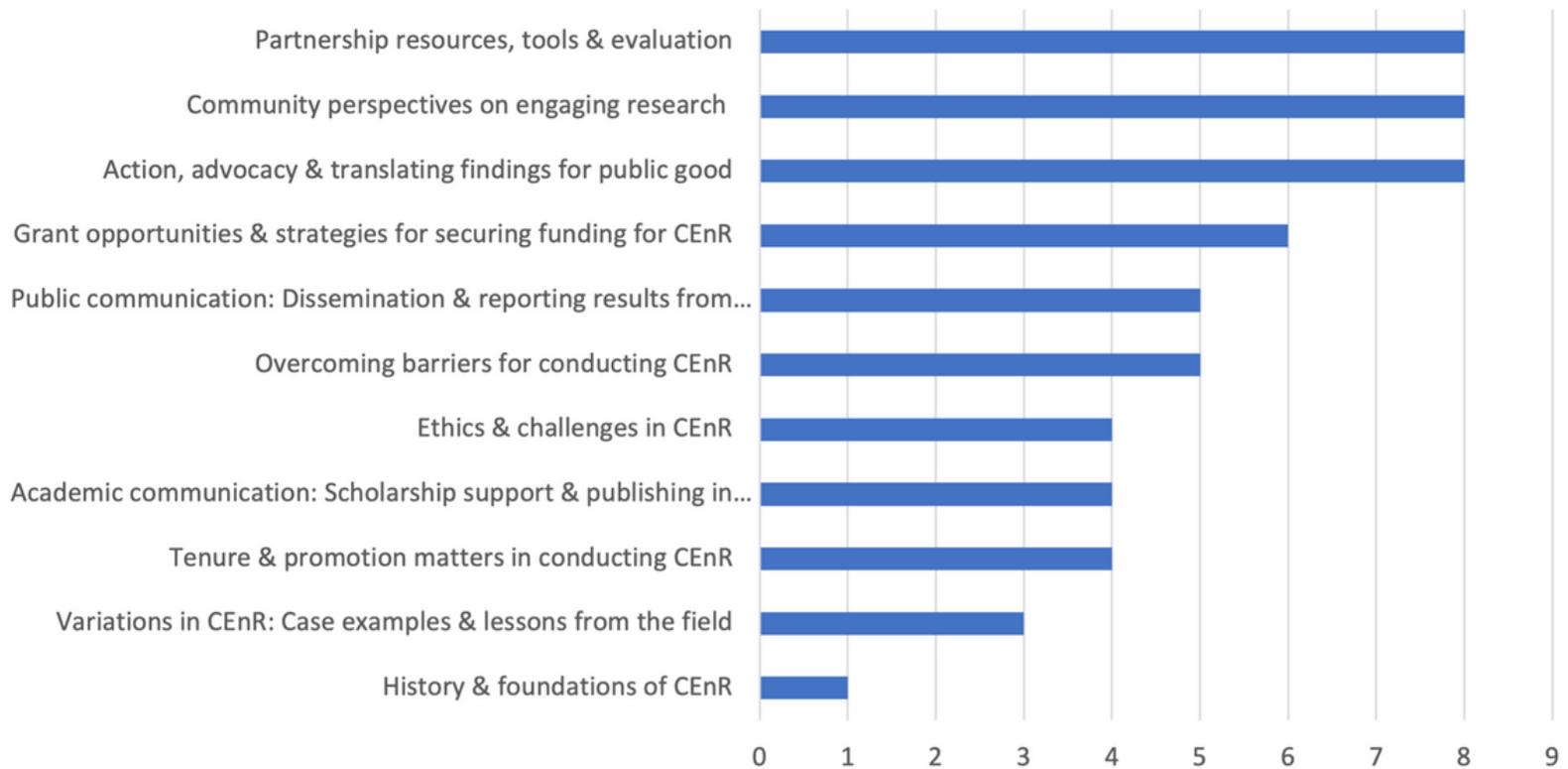
Which best describes you? (mark all that apply)

WSU Faculty	3
WSU Staff	1
Community organization leader or representative	3
Community member/resident	4
Student	3
Other	2

Based on my experience attending today's event...



Topics of Interest for Future Events



How will you use the information you learned at today's event?

"Health literacy and equity"

"The information will help me to better support our clients as they consider and participate in community-engaged research efforts."

"Pass it on to community members needing engagement skills."

"Continue to think about ways to better partner with community groups and members in my research, especially where it meshes with community needs/interests."

"This information is going to be useful to me in my work with the community."

"I'm a community-engagement partner for Wayne Health and the mobile unit program. The topics are timely because I'm going through the partner/relationship dance at this time."

How can CHECK-UP support community engagement with research at WSU?

"Help educate scientists"

"Build relationships with the community separate from research efforts- attend our special events, sponsor a social activity, etc. Our clients are more likely to engage with research when they know you on a more personal level."

"Mentorships, guidance, introductions, and more sessions like this"

"Coaching to other researchers and students"

"Appoint community representative to more joint partnerships; expand work with faith-based organizations"

What specific challenges need to be addressed to foster and improve community-engagement with research at Wayne State University?

"Partnering with local artists and the creative economy"

"As a small, independent, non-profit organization, our time and funding is limited. We want to participate in everything that could strengthen our community, but we don't always have enough employees to support the programs. Capacity-building: developing a pool of community health workers, senior volunteers, or work-training programs, and intergenerational engagement may help provide the workforce that is needed to support these efforts."

"Should be a partnership or coordination of community-engagement and research within WSU department"

"Funding support, recognition of the complexities, timeline, and value of CEnR in the faculty promotion and tenure process."

"Lack of trust: One of the main challenges in fostering community engagement with research is a lack of trust between academic institutions and the communities they serve. This can be due to past exploitation of communities in research, lack of transparency in research processes, and failure to address community concerns Limited resources, Communication barriers, Lack of incentives and power dynamics: power imbalances between academic institutions and community members can create barriers to community engagement."