



6th Annual Repatriation Conference

Growing community & moving forward
after 30 years of NAGPRA

October 26 - 28, 2020



Hosted by the Association on American Indian Affairs & The University of Denver Museum of Anthropology

Post Conference Evaluation Report

trainer
EVALUATION

About the Conference

The 6th Annual Repatriation Conference took place October 26-28, 2020.

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the conference moved from in-person to virtual and was conducted over Zoom.

By the numbers

730

Attendees

346

**Scholarships
Awarded**

15

**Concurrent
Sessions**

4

**Plenary
Sessions**

3

Workshops

1

**Networking
Lunch**

Conference Evaluation

Evaluation was conducted during and after the conference. Conference evaluation included the use of **polls** at the end of each plenary and concurrent sessions and a **post-conference survey** that was emailed to all attendees. Unfortunately, a computer glitch erased the poll data from concurrent sessions, leaving attendee reactions to the plenary sessions only.

Poll questions

Poll questions provided immediate feedback to the presenters and offered a point in time look at how conference attendees were feeling, how they were processing information, and if they had learned any new skills.

At this point in the conference, I feel: (select up to 2 emotions)

Bored, Excited, Overwhelmed, Positive, Processing, Stuck

This session presented new directions/new ideas for my NAGPRA work:

Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree, Not applicable

I learned something new and/or useful for my NAGPRA work in this session:

Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree, Not applicable

The session challenged some of my understandings of NAGPRA in a productive manner.

Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree, Not applicable

The material presented in this session:

Is immediately useful to me

Will be useful; I have to mull it over a bit

Might be useful to me, I can't tell

Was not useful to me

I am excited to take the ideas I heard in this session back to work and implement them.

Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree, Not applicable

Over the course of the conference, I: (select all that apply)

Came away with new ideas/inspiration

Contributed to peer discussions around NAGPRA implementation

Felt a bit lost and disheartened

Gathered ideas on how to better and more efficiently implement NAGPRA

Learned more about other approaches, goals and rationales

Sensed that the field is still disjointed and uncertain of how best to move forward

Conference Evaluation

Evaluation was conducted during and after the conference. In conference evaluation included the use of **polls** at the end of each plenary and concurrent session and a **post-conference survey** that was emailed to all attendees.

Post-Conference Survey

The post-conference survey was sent to participants one week after the conference to allow them the chance to return to work and process some of what they had experienced and heard.

Post survey questions probed to what degree they:

- Networked with colleagues

- Had enough time to network

- Felt part of a community

- Expanded their professional network

- Gained new tools to help with repatriation work

- Were exposed to new ideas

- Felt better positioned to take on repatriation work

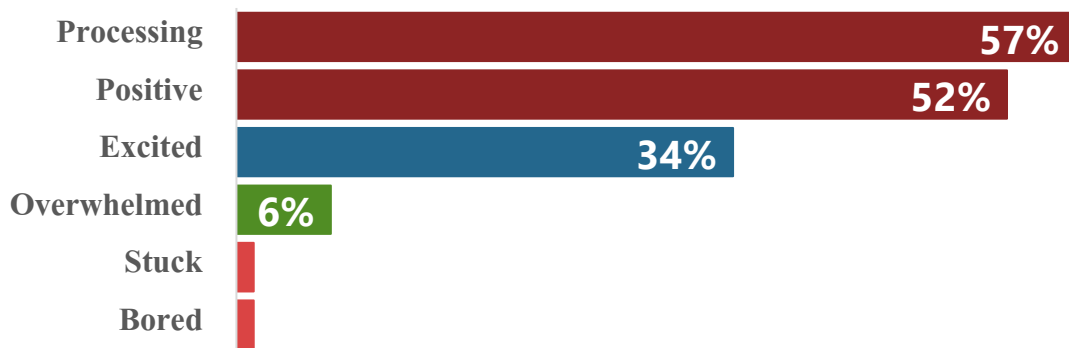
Attendees were asked to reflect on the most useful topics as well as topics that were missing from the discussion.

Additional questions focused on technical issues related to Zoom, preferences around the type of conference for 2021, and conference scholarships.

Conference Poll Results

Plenary 1: The Need for Religious Freedom and Human Rights: The Reckoning of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (n=173)

At this point in the conference, I feel: (select up to 2 emotions)



Plenary 2: From Repatriation to Rematriation: Honoring the Ancestors and Their Seeds (n=224)

This session presented new directions/new ideas for my NAGPRA work:

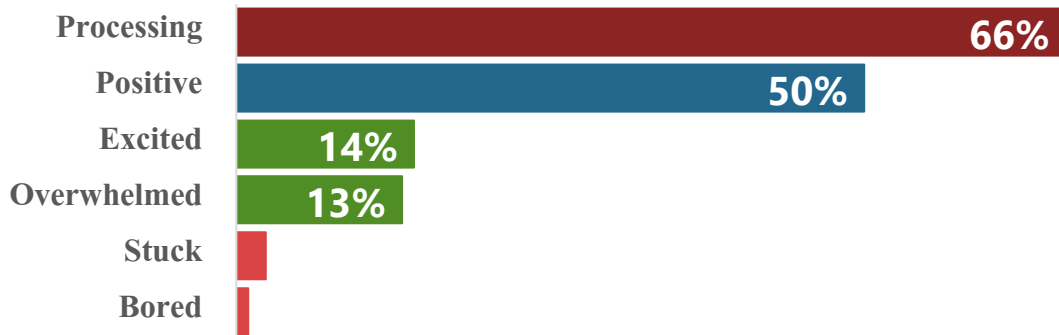
49%
Strongly agree

41%
Agree

Conference Poll Results

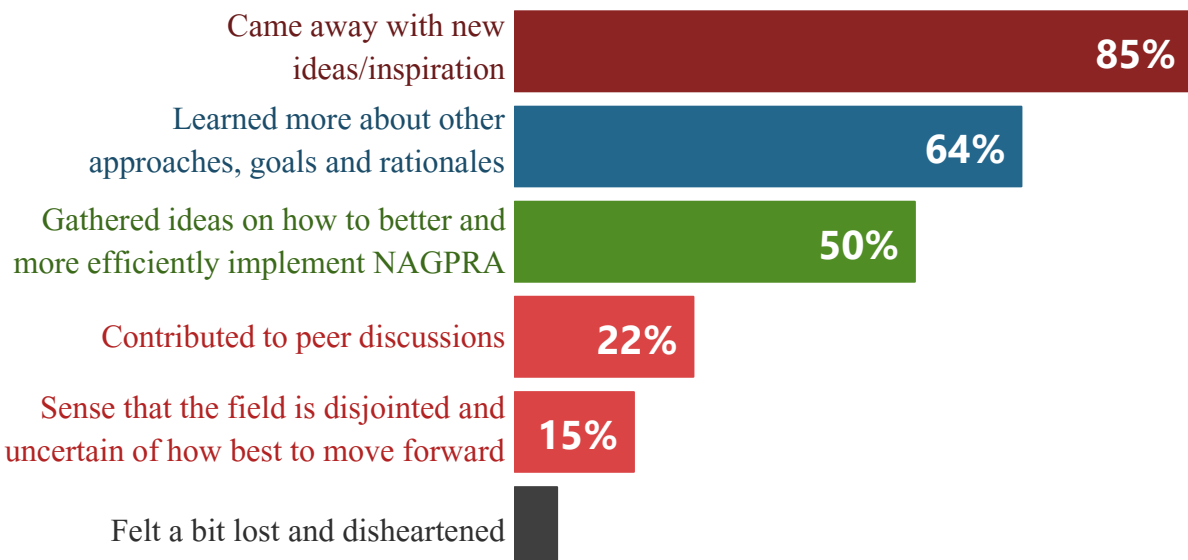
Plenary 3: Mythbusting NAGPRA (n=212)

At this point in the conference, I feel: (select up to 2 emotions)



Plenary 4: Building Community and Moving Forward (n=183)

This session presented new directions/new ideas for my NAGPRA work:



Post-Conference Survey Results



Satisfaction

70% of attendees rated the conference very highly.



New Ideas & Skills

The conference was particularly successful in exposing attendees to new ideas. Attendees reported gaining new ideas and new skills and that they feel better positioned to take on the work of repatriation because of this conference.



Networking

The conference was successful in helping attendees expand their professional network and creating a sense of community.

Attendees wanted more time to network during the conference and found it hard to network with colleagues in the virtual space.



Technology

Technology was not a problem for most attendees and those who had some issues were generally able to work through them on their own.



2021

Participants weren't sure what format they will want to see next year, but they are not interested in an in-person only conference.

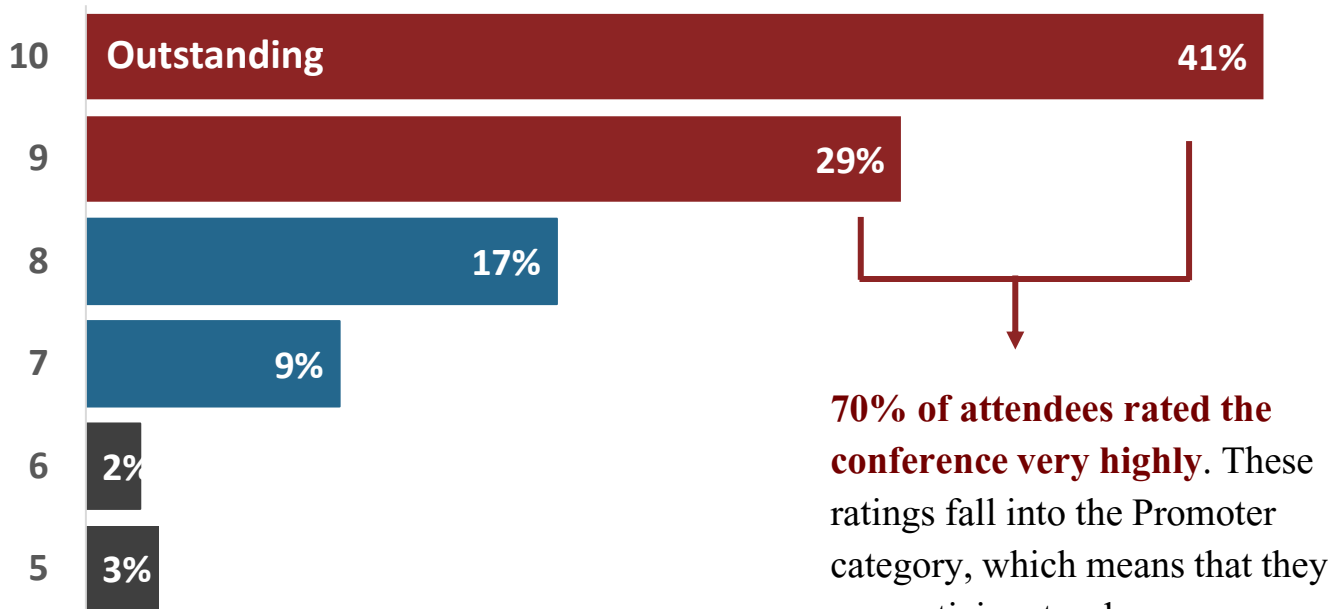


Scholarships

47% of attendees received a scholarship; 72% of them would not have been able to attend otherwise.

Overall Rating

Attendees were asked to rate their overall experience on a scale of 1-10, where 1 was poor and 10 outstanding.



Overall, participants had a very positive experience with the conference. Only 5% rated the conference less than 7 and no one gave the conference a Poor rating.

70% of attendees rated the conference very highly. These ratings fall into the Promoter category, which means that they are participants who are more likely to talk about the conference and share their experience with colleagues.

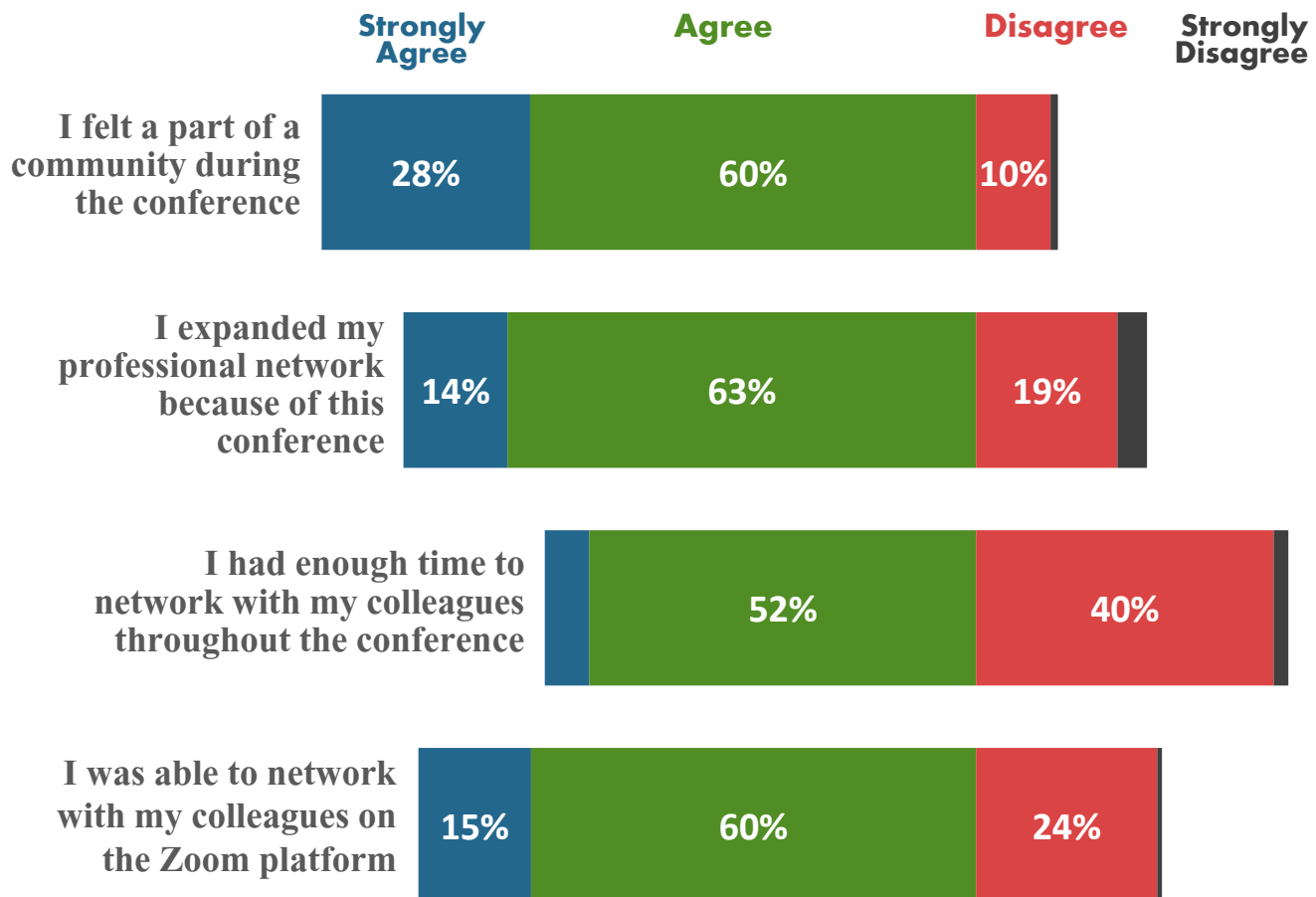
Experience Matrix | Community & Networking

One set of statements in the experience matrix focused on whether the conference created a sense of community and provided the ability and time for attendees to network with colleagues.

The conference was **successful in helping attendees expand their professional network and creating a sense of community.**

There was dissatisfaction with the amount of time allotted to networking; **attendees wanted more time to network during the conference.**

Attendees had a **hard time networking with colleagues**; however, most expressed that it was because of the virtual space and not the fault of the organizers.



Experience Matrix | Tools & Ideas

Another set of statements in the experience matrix new skills and ideas attendees acquired from the conference that would help them in their repatriation work.

The conference was particularly **successful in exposing attendees to new ideas**.

Overall, attendees **reported gaining new ideas and new skills and that they feel better positioned to take on the work of repatriation because of this conference**.

**Strongly
Agree**

Agree

Disagree

I feel better positioned to take on the work of repatriation because of this conference

52%

39%

8%

I was exposed to new ideas during the conference

65%

31%

I gained new tools to help me with my repatriation work

49%

44%

Most Useful Topic

Attendees responded to an open-ended question about which topic in the conference was most useful to them.

90 attendees listed a particular conference session as the **most useful**.

26% Decolonize Your Institution

16% From Repatriation to Rematriation: Honoring the Ancestors and Their Seeds

10% Creating Reciprocal Avenues to Meaningful Change

38 attendees listed a general topic as the **most useful**.

18% NAGPRA Implementation

18% Tribal Perspectives

16% Legal Perspective

13% Cultural Affiliation

Future Topics

Participants were asked to identify topics that were not covered in the conference. These ideas can help provide guidance for future conferences, webinars, and Community of Practice sessions.

NAGPRA training

- NAGPRA basics
- Grant writing
- Writing notices

Work outside of NAGPRA

- International repatriation
- Archives
- Private collectors

NAGPRA work happening regionally

Disposition of individuals with no cultural affiliation

Examples of “success” from the field

“More positive examples of success stories- institutions/museums working with tribes to promote more outreach about their cultures through museum exhibits, online webinars, publications. I feel that everyone involved in repatriation efforts has so much to contribute towards teaching the general public, professional archaeologists, and tribal members about the past. Each has a set of information that- together- can help fill in gaps in stories of the past.”

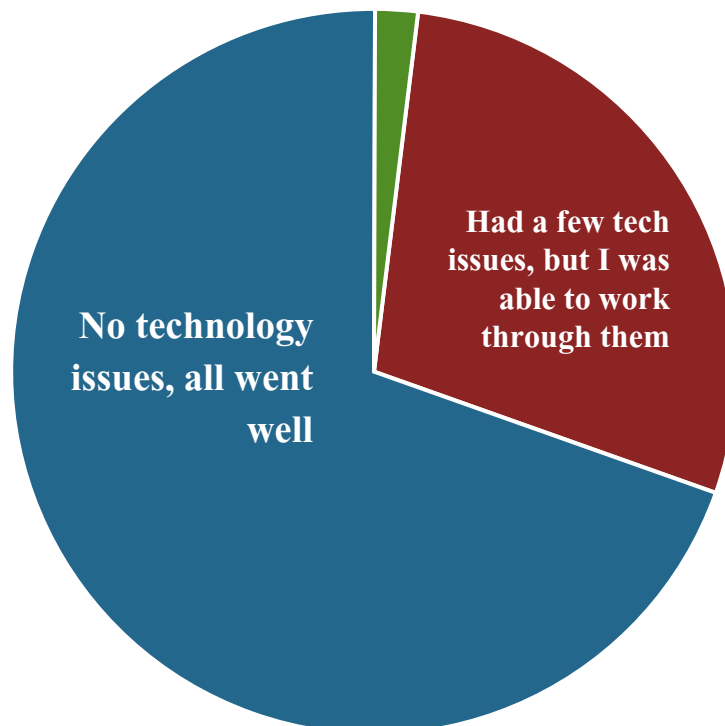
Zoom Platform

This was the first time the Repatriation Conference occurred virtually. Organizers chose to use the Zoom Platform and worked with OpenWater to build the website, set up the Zoom meetings and provide live support.

Technology was **not a problem for most attendees** and the **those who had some issues were generally able to work through them on their own**.

Only 2% of participants indicated that **technological issues interfered with their ability to enjoy the conference**.

As work and meetings will most likely continue to be virtual for the foreseeable future, it is good to know that the Zoom platform worked for participants.

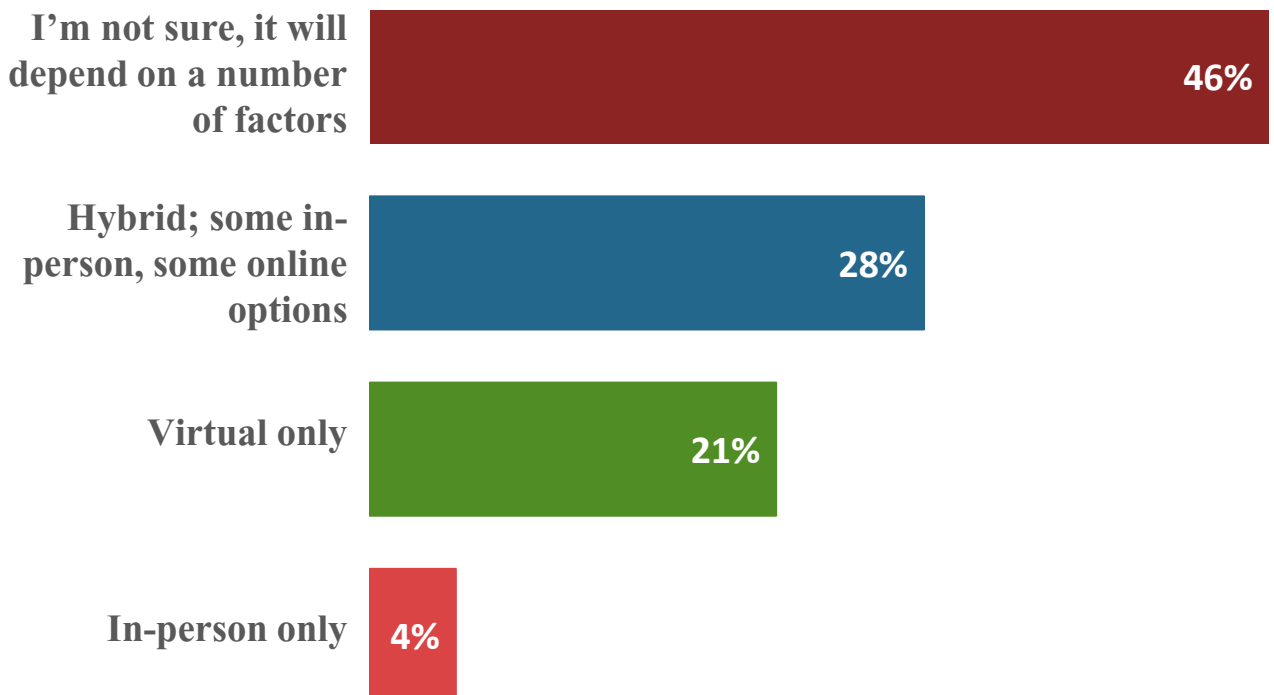


Conference 2021

To get a sense about what a 2021 conference might look like, attendees were asked to think what format they would prefer to attend – in person, hybrid or all virtual.

Reflecting the uncertainty that surrounds our society, **participants responded that they weren't sure what format they will want to see come next year**. Factors might include institutional budgets, comfort around traveling and gathering, and vaccination rates. This might also signal that the virtual space has created new opportunities for people that don't exist in in-person conferences.

One thing is apparent, attendees said they are **not interested in an in-person only conference**.



Conference Scholarships

47%

of the 730 attendees
received a scholarship
to the conference

72%

of those who received a
scholarship would NOT
have been able to the
conference otherwise

Put another way...

201 people

Were able to attend the conference because
they received a scholarship

What Else?

Respondents wrote about their appreciation for the:

Overall organization and conference content

This was the best conference/seminar I have been to in a very long time- it was informative, inspirational, kind considerate and thoughtful, well organized, well run, truly served the purpose...I learned SO much. I am even more interested in this field than I was before.

The virtual format; many indicated that they wouldn't have been able to attend in person regardless of pandemic

Having this conference virtual was fantastic, I could not have afforded to attend in person seeing that my institution provides limited professional development funds to staff.

Session recordings

The dialogue, questions, and interactions was really great. Thank you for allowing the opportunity to view the sessions until January.

Scholarships

As a scholarship recipient I really appreciated the opportunity to attend and am grateful for the experience.

For future gatherings, consider;

Longer breaks or shorter days

Longer sessions or fewer speakers