



SPROCKETS 2013 CONFERENCE SUMMARY

MISSION MOMENTS

At table introductions, attendees shared: *“How has your involvement in Sprockets strengthened your ability to do good work or helped you develop as a learner, contributor or navigator?”*



Strategic approach to Sustainability

Strong relationships with community

Specific focus with YPQA

So What? Sprockets – The power of afterschool! Messaging & Uniting

The Power of Partnerships

Paving the way for high quality youth Programs

Promotion: Sprockets has helped me connect with other youth organizations

Providing Paid opportunities for youth

Rethinking technology

Resources for OST

Running Reports in Sprockets gives useful data about youth attendance

Raised awareness for system building

Opportunity to serve more youth, more Often and better

Organizing and analyzing data for continuous improvement

Outcome measurement

Organizational sustainability

Care about quality

Cross-sector Collaborative Capacity

Contribution of OST to Cradle to Career

Collaborations with Community partners

Kapacity – partnerships, accelerator work, professional development

Keeping OST in the forefront

Knowledge

Building students’ Knowledge Knapsacks

Energy to support quality improvement

Evaluation

Eye for Excellence! Networking, trainings, database, program quality resources

Engage youth in leadership

Training – quality & data practices


“Tweet” about the good things happening for youth

Teamwork: bringing Together a Team to uplift youth opportunities combining voices of community, schools, government, youth and families

Speak Super to Sharing Serious Secrets & Strengthen our St Paul Stats

Learning not to be Shy. Silence is not the answer. Speak up!

Spreading the word – about our program and those of community partners



Sprockets Network Conference
 Friday, March 8, 2013
 Washington Technology Magnet
 Master of Ceremony: Vermul Pewee, Saint Paul Youth Commission

9 am	Welcome Jackie Turner, <i>Chief Engagement Officer, SPSS</i> Priscilla Little, <i>Initiative Manager, The Wallace Foundation</i>
9:30 am	Keynote Susan Brower, <i>MN State Demographer</i>
10:15 am	Report Presentation Kari Denissen Cunnien, <i>Director, Sprockets</i>
11 am	Break
11:15 am	Breakout Sessions
12 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	What's Next for Sprockets Fr. Kevin McDonough, <i>St. Peter Claver Parish Chair, Sprockets Leadership Group</i>
1 pm	Adjourn

TABLE CONVERSATIONS

State Demographer & Sprockets Report

"I was concerned about the database at first, but now I'm sold on it!"

The following questions were posed to tables after the Keynote and the Sprockets Data Report Presentation. Participants captured conversations on tabletop recording sheets and many tables also had a note taker. This section highlights clusters and themes from those conversations in descending order of occurrence.

WHAT DATA MOVED YOU?

- Participants were struck by many components of Ms. Brower's keynote around demographics and population changes.
- There was significant discussion around the Program Type section of the Sprockets Report around two areas: the imbalance of distribution, and the limitations of the categories including no faith-based.
- Many participants were moved by the map in the Report and there were varying interpretations of this data from adequate distribution of program sites in high-density poverty areas to uneven distribution.
- The statistic of 65% of youth participating in fewer than 30 days of program created lots of buzz, surprise and exclamation marks.
- The following areas received several comments but were not mentioned with the frequency of the previous areas: SAYO; number of youth represented in shared data system; number of organizations in network; and the opportunities to connect older members of the community with youth.

HOW DO WE USE DATA TOGETHER AS A NETWORK TO MOVE FORWARD?

1. Comments enthusiastically supported the idea of growing the data system and actively engaging more partners to expand the data set, utilize tools that are available, and get inspired.
2. Data should inform needs, gaps and duplication, acting as a "road map" for expansion. The data should drive strategic, informed decision-making around best practices, effective programming, resource allocation, and collaborations.
3. The use of data should "promote collaboration rather than competition." Network partners should learn from each other's trials, continue to share through networking opportunities, and inspire and promote collaboration.
4. Based on data, the Network can identify resources that align with community needs to help sustain and grow funding, as well as develop assessment tools, reports, and collection mechanisms that align with funding requirements.
5. Data can help support the need and build the case for OST in public arenas. "How can data tell our story and help advocate our priorities?"
6. Data demonstrates impact – both individual and collective. Data shows the importance of non-academic outcomes while connecting OST to improved educational outcomes and shows change on a collective, community level.
7. The Network can use data to inform program development and to create opportunities. Specific examples mentioned frequently were preparing youth for the future workforce; creating intergenerational opportunities; and strengthening education.

WHAT BIG QUESTIONS MATTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ALL YOUTH IN SAINT PAUL?

- What are the issues of access and barriers to participation: "Who are we *not* serving?"
- How can we make more connections and engage more partners in OST work – business, industry, colleges, civic organizations: "How do we engage community partners more with youth – not just financially but with resources and accessibility?"
- What is the short term and long term impact of OST: "What can we take credit for?"
- What is OST's connection to academics and education: "How do we use data to show OST's impact on the achievement gap?"

- How do we use data to positively develop youth: *“How do we make data move youth to a positive vision for future? How do we help youth become navigators of their futures?”*
- What are best practices: *“Which program are most impactful and how do we expand and replicate them?”*

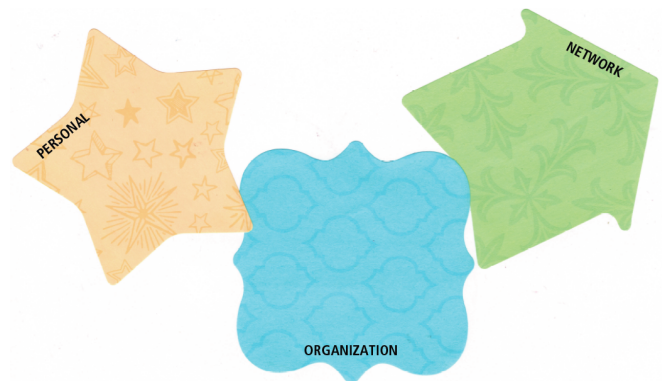
SPROCKETS & DATA

This final section highlights specific, actionable ideas for implementation that emerged from all three rounds of discussion.

- **TRACK YOUTH INVOLVEMENT:** collect data around youth who engage in multiple programs, across programs, and youth who move from one program to the next
- **LIFT UP NON-ACADEMIC OUTCOMES:** Persistence, grit, resilience – how do we highlight the importance of these vs. academic gains/success?
- **PROVIDE TRAINING AND CONTINUED SUPPORT TO USE DATA SYSTEM:** be proactive with training so programs can be more efficient with using, help program figure out how to apply data to their continued improvement
- **TWEAK CATEGORIES:** more program types, collect ethnicity within race

SPROCKETS CONFERENCE ACTIONS

At the end of the day, participants reflected on the actions that were inspired during the Conference. *“What has today moved you to do?”* on three levels – individually, in the organizations you represent, and collectively as a Network. While responses were as varied and diverse as the Conference participants themselves, the following themes emerged under each category:



PERSONAL

- Numerous partners expressed a desire to continue to engage or increase involvement in Sprockets through connecting with each other, participating in and promoting the database.
- Participants spoke about wanting to engage with and listen more to young people.
- There was a small cluster of responses around increasing competency around the capacity to use data for improvement.
- Several participants talked about using their voices more to tell their OST stories.

ORGANIZATION

- Nearly 25% of responses stated some sort of commitment around data – joining the database, sharing more data with youth and throughout organization, using data to advocate for public policy change.
- Another 25% talked about making more connections, collaborating more, and creating partnerships to improve work.
- A number of respondents talked specifically about thinking about the “scaling” concept and implications for their work.

NETWORK

- The bulk of the responses (30%) focused around continued data support:
 - *Figure out our shared questions*
 - *Look into partnering in City Span database*
 - *Build the case for more organizations to join the database*
 - *Help us think about the use of Sprockets data for improvement*
 - *Get a better sense of how many youth have multiple Sprockets program connection*

- The second most mentioned theme was around providing continued opportunities for professional networking, sharing data, and connecting around best practices.
 - *We should try to create more awareness of all the knowledge and data we have*
- Finally, there were a significant number of items that identified advocating with funders around the value of non-academic outcomes as an action item for the Network.
 - *Keep championing the benefits of the OST sector in the life of a child. We are not schools. We can assist schools in the broader success landscape of the child in ways schools cannot. That is our unique value.*

Conference Evaluations

“You really did an amazing job. I was so impressed with this conference, from execution to delivery. Congrats!”

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART(S) OF THIS CONFERENCE WAS:

- Networking /sharing / relationship development – 42%
 - *Being in the same room together. The “our journey continues” commitments would like to see a synopsis sent out.*
 - *Starting to see more and more familiar faces*
- Youth involvement and voice throughout/presentations/mission moments priceless! – 39%
 - *Loved mission moments – hearing from the youth side – priceless.*
 - *Youth voices were heard throughout and it was very impactful*
 - *To have youths present their experiences because this is the most meaningful. You can’t have “you” with out “youths!”*
- Susan Brower/statistics – 28%
 - *Hearing about the changing demographics of MN – it validates the work we do*
 - *Looking at demographics to start thinking about future – building/preparing.*
- Learning about sprockets data/importance of data – 19%
 - *Talking about data with youth leaders was great*
 - *Data has more meaning than just #'s*
 - *Discussing the important of the big picture and Sprockets data*
- Breakouts – 16%
 - *Priscilla and scaling breakout (3)*
 - *Beacons breakout (1)*
- Small group Discussion/interactive activities – 16%
 - *The ideas the evolved from discussions with others*
 - *Sharing – chatting- haring ideas of those at my table.*

WHAT ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK OR QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR SPROCKETS ABOUT TODAY’S EVENT OR BEING A SPROCKETS NETWORK PARTNER MOVING FORWARD?

20% of the 44 comments were positive with quotes like the following:

- *The event was well-planned, engaging, informative, organized, and fun*
- *Very valuable*
- *Super cool meeting*

Constructive feedback focused around four areas with 4-7 comments per category: Timing/Design, Logistics, Breakout Sessions, and Keynote. Participants wanted more time to connect and more discussion time as part of the day.

Comments around breakout sessions had to do with wanting more options and longer length time. A few participants wished the keynote had more application around how the data affects youth. And finally, there was a total of four comments on logistics: don't have on school release day; have in a more physically accessible space (too many stairs); food ran out early; and no compost/recyclable containers.

QUESTIONS/MOVING FORWARD:

These are not clustered to honor each individual who filled out this section on the participant evaluation. The comments compliment the other areas of action stated earlier in this report.

- *When is data necessary?*
- *I hope to get more engaged and learn more from you. Would be great to have sessions on a model youth program and best practices from inception to outcome to data collection*
- *What resources can Sprockets provide in terms of facilitating collaboration?*
- *How can I build awareness of my program to the other programs in the sprockets Network?*
- *Keep tying Sprockets and youth data to greater MN (Statewide) and us data so we can keep focused on the future our young people will be encountering*
- *We never talked about how to use data and the data presented did not seem relevant or helpful to our want. It didn't "move" me towards effectively using data*
- *Can we get the demographic data? How should our organizations collaborate more? Next conference could have assigned break-out sessions where all orgs are assigned to discuss with each other*
- *I'm curious as to how CitySpan works and signed on for a training. I'm wondering how accessible future data will be – easy access*
- *Can Sprockets provide funding for our work? Or access to potential funding sources?*
- *We need combine SPPS community education youth enrichment data with Sprockets data*
- *How about doing a longitudinal study of youth participating in high quality OST programs?*
- *I liked the report but would like more specific data of where was taken from organizations and age groups*
- *Bring as many organizations who share data and information into the network, that will help organizations target their area of interest*
- *Report info on trends found in Sprockets database*

DESIGN TEAM DEBRIEF

WHAT WORKED?

- ✓ Vermul – youth emcee
- ✓ Mix of new and familiar faces
- ✓ Lots of roles for people to contribute to conference
- ✓ Mission Moments – young people
- ✓ The event was focused on data, but young people kept us grounded
- ✓ Youth engaged in breakouts
- ✓ Not dominated by “higher level folks”
- ✓ Energy in room – diversity of people coalescing around same goals – cohesion
- ✓ Advertising food at 8:30 with start time at 9:00
- ✓ Youth crew

REMEMBER & QUESTIONS TO PONDER FOR 2014!

- ✓ 2 days? Conference with other Sprockets work again
- ✓ data group meet after conference?
- ✓ Get super specific with breakout presenters on A.V. needs
- ✓ Breakouts: back up format for A.V. (jumpdrive, speakers, etc.)
- ✓ Observers in breakout rooms? Some sort of report back process?
- ✓ Sprockets staff do breakouts? Reinforces Sprockets intermediary role

- ✓ Breakouts: lots of choices so rooms don't need to be as big, lots of partners presenting, lots of folks wanted to get to 2 breakouts

SPACE & LOGISTICS

- ✓ Reserve and get space and date earlier
- ✓ Order enough breakfast for all
- ✓ Place with set up support, technical support, breakout room support
- ✓ This was too large and open
- ✓ Get date out ahead of time
- ✓ May not have so many resources moving forward to engage youth – stipends, consultant support – what's priority for budget?
- ✓ Find a co-sponsor for space?
- ✓ How to engage during event: twitter? Instagram?