Social engagement and facilitator training are supportive for participants of online professional development

91% of respondents report implementing something they learned from the online professional development

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The Need

Online professional development (PD) can be a more accessible form of PD for
- Instructors with caregiving responsibilities
- Instructors from under-resourced institutions
- People concerned about environmental impact of travel

Workshop Design

- Prospective facilitators proposed workshop topics
- Facilitators engaged in training on PD best practices led by a team of experienced workshop leaders.
- 16 virtual workshops conducted during the summers of 2022 and 2023
- Variety of topics: content-focused PD vs. pedagogy-focused PD

Study Methods

- 1-year follow up survey - (200) instructors who participated in any of the 16 workshops
- Workshops were generally aligned with best practices from PD literature (Valadez Fraire et al., 2024), but there were questions that remained...
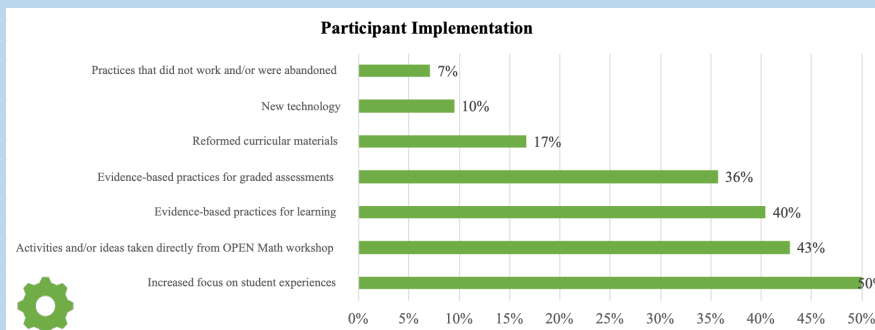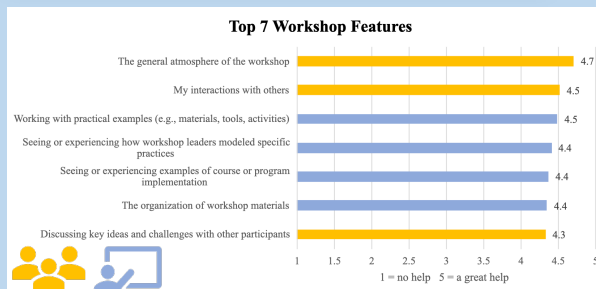
How are participants changing their teaching?

What, if any, workshop features were impactful in support of these changes?

- Descriptive statistics for quantitative items
- Analyzed open-ended questions using inductive thematic coding
  - Created a series of 12 codes based on the teaching changes that participants reported implementing in their own classrooms

Top 7 Workshop Features

Feature	Rating
The general atmosphere of the workshop	4.7
My interactions with others	4.5
Working with practical examples (e.g., materials, tools, activities)	4.5
Seeing or experiencing how workshop leaders modeled specific practices	4.4
Seeing or experiencing examples of course or program implementation	4.4
The organization of workshop materials	4.4
Discussing key ideas and challenges with other participants	4.3

1 = no help   5 = a great help

Results

- **Top-ranked workshop features**
  - Split between the participants social experiences during the workshops and workshop design features that were emphasized throughout the facilitator trainings
- **Most commonly implemented** (% of participants reporting)
  - Focus on student experiences, e.g. increasing student voice (50%)
  - Activities/ideas directly from OPEN Math workshop (43%)
  - Evidence-based practices, e.g. group work (40%).
  - Participants also reported other takeaways, such as sharing what they learned with others (11%) & engaging in research, e.g., conducting a research study (7%).

Participant Implementation

Category	Percent
Practices that did not work and/or were abandoned	7%
New technology	10%
Reformed curricular materials	17%
Evidence-based practices for graded assessments	36%
Evidence-based practices for learning	40%
Activities and/or ideas taken directly from OPEN Math workshop	43%
Increased focus on student experiences	50%

Discussion

- Although no two workshops were exactly the same, there are commonalities in the teaching changes that participants implemented and the workshop features they found the most helpful.
- PD developers can utilize these features to create PD opportunities focused on classroom implementation.

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