

**Final Report for HERC Funding for the 2023 Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research (ICUR)**  
*Submitted by Donna Llewellyn, Executive Director of the Boise State Institute for Inclusive and Transformative Scholarship*

ICUR 2023 was held on July 19 and 20, 2023. Due to uncertainties related to COVID-19 and space constraints at Boise State, the conference was an online event with in-person receptions at each of the three research universities. We used the Fourwaves platform for the display of student posters and a synchronous poster fair and Zoom for synchronous talks and workshops. In terms of attendance, the participation was robust. We utilized the funding from HERC to allow each research university to reserve space and technology along with catering to host a local optional reception. In addition, we purchased a license to use a larger zoom room, and we needed a much greater amount of staff time to get the conference designed, planned, and implemented. We are grateful for the HERC funding that allowed us to hold ICUR this year.

There were 519 people who registered for the conference this year, with 335 participating in the Zoom sessions. This included people from over 30 different institutions/organizations. There were 196 poster presentations with a total of 533 project collaborators including 250 undergraduate students, 79 graduate students and 164 faculty (plus some postdoctoral fellows, high school students, and other community members). Our planning committee of representatives from the different colleges and universities across the state really worked hard to encourage and facilitate participation.

There were two days of workshops and presentations – see the following pages for the program schedule. More details are also available at <https://www.boisestate.edu/icur/>. Note that Boise State has disallowed the use of pdf programs due to accessibility issues so all materials for the conference were posted at the [event site](#).

A survey was been sent out to all of the attendees. The likert scale responses and an overview of the open-ended responses are attached. We intend to use these results to improve the conference next year, as we learn from our virtual conferences about what aspects of this event are best suited to a virtual setting and which parts really suffer from a lack of in-person interaction.

The funding from HERC went to the following categories of expenditures:

Item	Amount
Zoom license to allow for over 100 participants	675
Materials and Supplies	9
Receptions at BSU, ISU, UI	6072.57
Admin, Evaluation, and Director Support	33,324.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39,991</b>

<b>Day 1: July 19</b>	
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM MDT	<b>ICUR Opening Session</b>
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM MDT	Lightning Talks
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM MDT	Lunch Break
12:45 PM - 2:15 PM MDT	Networking: Meet a Prof
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM MDT	Open Discussion/Introduction to panel discussions
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM MDT	Faculty Panel: Flavors of UG Research
	Student Panel: Industry Opportunities
3:30 PM - 3:35 PM MDT	Transition back to main room
3:35 PM - 4:35 PM MDT	Panel
4:35 PM - 4:45 PM MDT	Closing
<b>Day 2: July 20</b>	
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM MDT	Paired Research Talks
11:00 AM - 11:15 PM MDT	Intro to Fourwaves
11:15 - 12:15	Poster Session 1
12:15 - 1:15	Lunch break
1:15 - 2:15	Poster Session 2
2:15 - 3:15 PM MDT	Poster Session 3
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM MDT	Break and transition back to Zoom
3:30 PM - 4:15 PM MDT	<b>ICUR Closing Session</b>

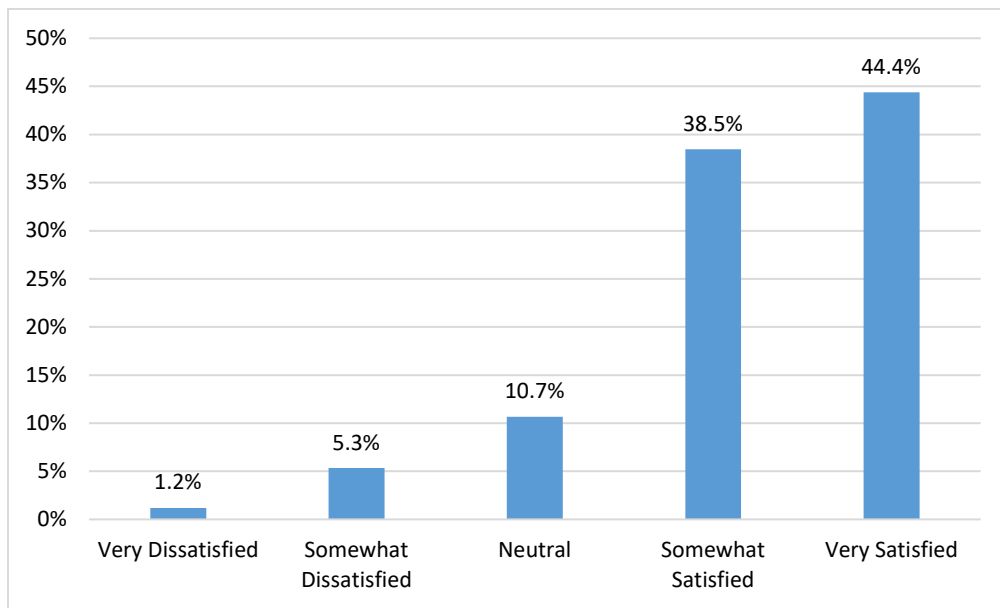
# Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research 2023

## Survey Results

**RESPONSE RATE: 35.3%**

- 514 survey recipients (excludes 6 IFITS staff who did not receive the survey)
  - 329 (64.0%) students
  - 185 (36.0%) faculty/staff/other
  
- 172 recorded responses; 5 of these are incomplete responses
  - 3 of the incomplete responses answered no questions and are therefore EXCLUDED from analysis.

**Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the 2023 Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research.**

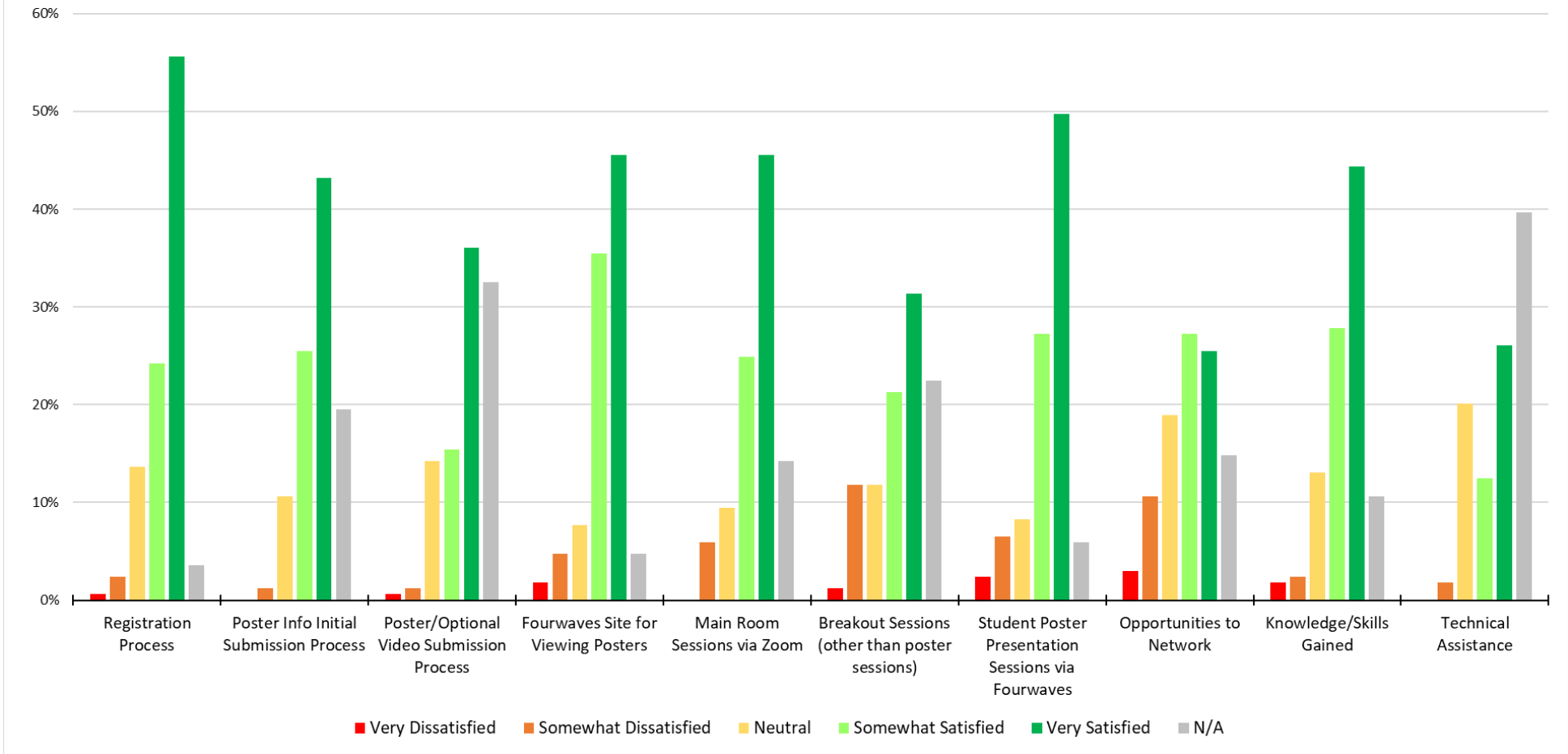


Answer	%	Count
Very Dissatisfied	1.2%	2
Somewhat Dissatisfied	5.3%	9
Neutral	10.7%	18
Somewhat Satisfied	38.5%	65
Very Satisfied	44.4%	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>169</b>

Please tell us how satisfied you were with the following aspects of the conference.

Aspect	Very Dissatisfied		Somewhat Dissatisfied		Neutral		Somewhat Satisfied		Very Satisfied		N/A		Total	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Registration Process	1%	1	2%	4	14%	23	24%	41	56%	94	4%	6	100%	169
Poster Info Initial Submission Process	0%	0	1%	2	11%	18	25%	43	43%	73	20%	33	100%	169
Poster/Optional Video Submission Process	1%	1	1%	2	14%	24	15%	26	36%	61	33%	55	100%	169
Fourwaves Site for Viewing Posters	2%	3	5%	8	8%	13	36%	60	46%	77	5%	8	100%	169
Main Room Sessions via Zoom	0%	0	6%	10	9%	16	25%	42	46%	77	14%	24	100%	169
Breakout Sessions (other than poster sessions)	1%	2	12%	20	12%	20	21%	36	31%	53	22%	38	100%	169
Student Poster Presentation Sessions via Fourwaves	2%	4	7%	11	8%	14	27%	46	50%	84	6%	10	100%	169
Opportunities to Network	3%	5	11%	18	19%	32	27%	46	25%	43	15%	25	100%	169
Knowledge/Skills Gained	2%	3	2%	4	13%	22	28%	47	44%	75	11%	18	100%	169
Technical Assistance	0%	0	2%	3	20%	34	12%	21	26%	44	40%	67	100%	169

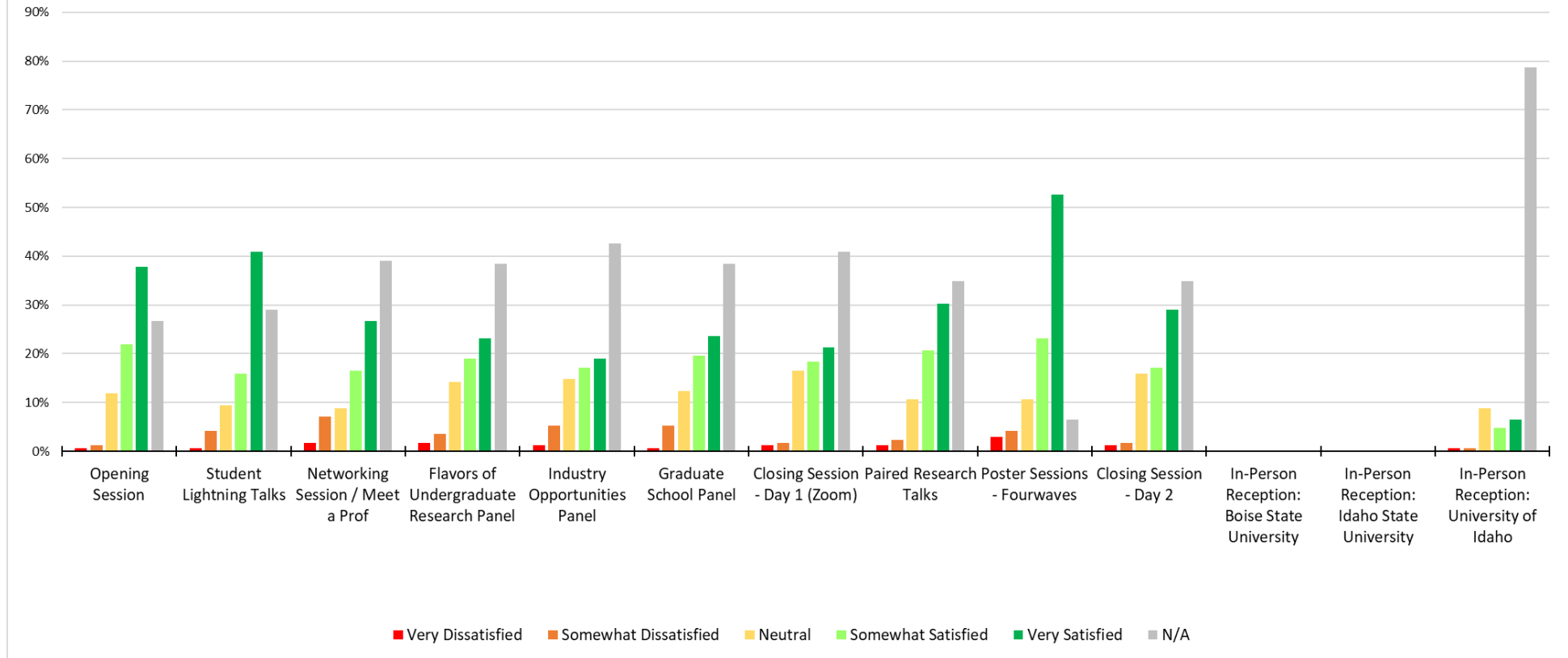
Please tell us how satisfied you were with the following aspects of the conference.



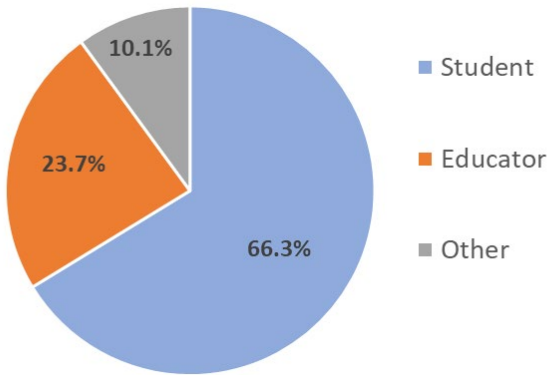
**For each session that you attended, please let us know how satisfied you were with that session.**

Session	Very Dissatisfied		Somewhat Dissatisfied		Neutral		Somewhat Satisfied		Very Satisfied		N/A		Total	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Opening Session	1%	1	1%	2	12%	20	22%	37	38%	64	27%	45	100%	169
Student Lightning Talks	1%	1	4%	7	9%	16	16%	27	41%	69	29%	49	100%	169
Networking Session / Meet a Prof	2%	3	7%	12	9%	15	17%	28	27%	45	39%	66	100%	169
Flavors of Undergraduate Research Panel	2%	3	4%	6	14%	24	19%	32	23%	39	38%	65	100%	169
Industry Opportunities Panel	1%	2	5%	9	15%	25	17%	29	19%	32	43%	72	100%	169
Graduate School Panel	1%	1	5%	9	12%	21	20%	33	24%	40	38%	65	100%	169
Closing Session - Day 1 (Zoom)	1%	2	2%	3	17%	28	18%	31	21%	36	41%	69	100%	169
Paired Research Talks	1%	2	2%	4	11%	18	21%	35	30%	51	35%	59	100%	169
Poster Sessions - Fourwaves	3%	5	4%	7	11%	18	23%	39	53%	89	7%	11	100%	169
Closing Session - Day 2	1%	2	2%	3	16%	27	17%	29	29%	49	35%	59	100%	169
In-Person Reception: Boise State University		1		2		20		11		49		86		169
In-Person Reception: Idaho State University		2		1		16		3		14		133		169
In-Person Reception: University of Idaho	1%	1	1%	1	9%	15	5%	8	7%	11	79%	133	100%	169

For each session that you attended, please let us know how satisfied you were with that session.



**Please select your role.**

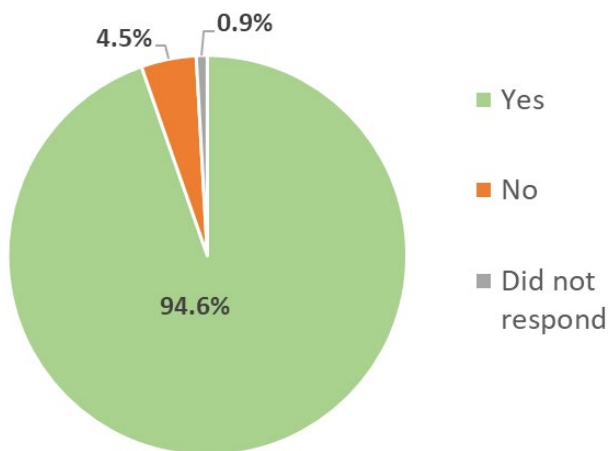


Answer	%	Count
Student	66.3%	112
Educator	23.7%	40
Other	10.1%	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>169</b>

**Other roles reported:**

- Educator
- Industry
- Postdoc
- Staff
- Student

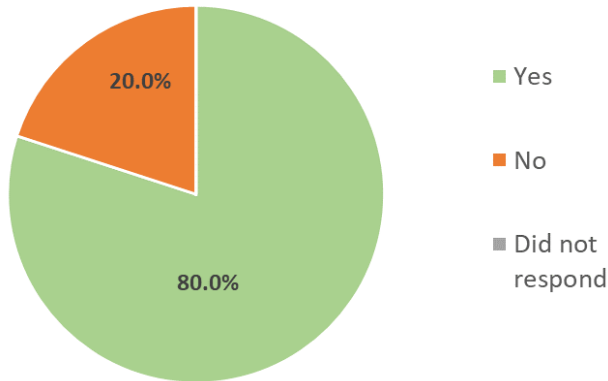
**Did you present a poster?** (This question presented only to the respondents who selected “Student” as their Role.)



Answer	%	Count
Yes	94.6%	106
No	4.5%	5
<i>Did not respond</i>	0.9%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>112</b>

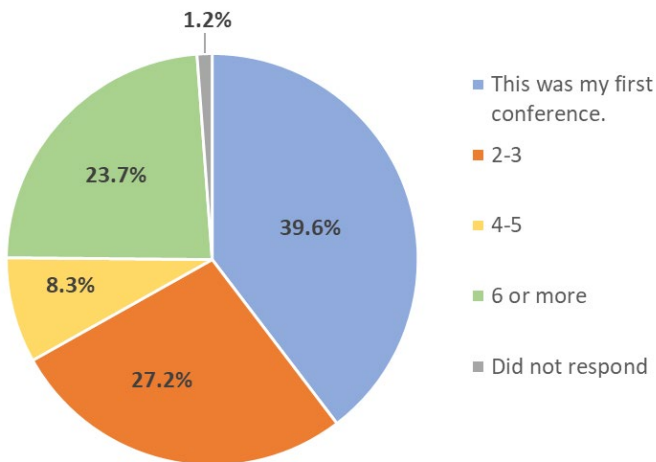


**Were you a mentor of a student researcher who presented a poster?** (This question presented only to the respondents who selected “Educator” as their Role.)



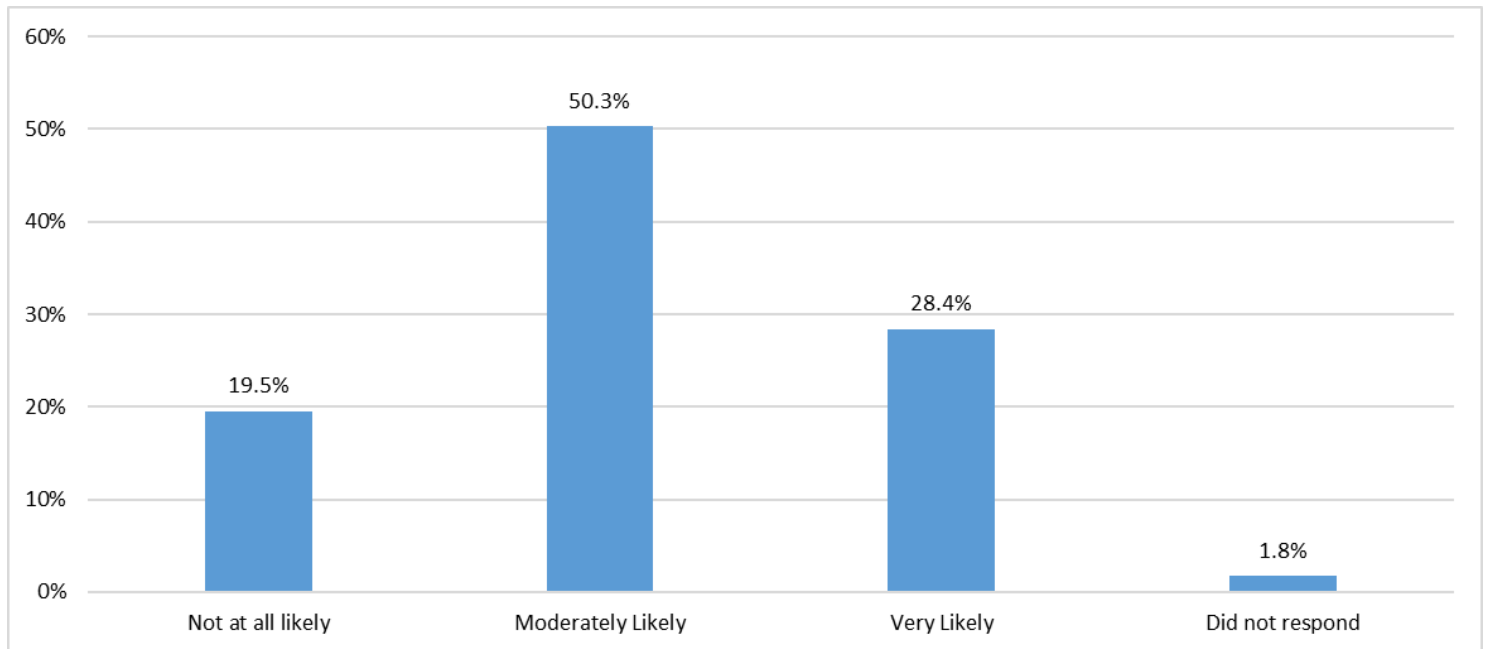
Answer	%	Count
Yes	80.0%	32
No	20.0%	8
<i>Did not respond</i>	0.0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>33</b>

**How many conferences (technical and professional conferences) have you attended including this one?**



Answer	%	Count
This was my first conference.	39.6%	67
2-3	27.2%	46
4-5	8.3%	14
6 or more	23.7%	40
<i>Did not respond</i>	1.2%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>169</b>

## How likely are you to attend ICUR next year?



Answer	%	Count
Not at all likely	19.5%	33
Moderately Likely	50.3%	85
Very Likely	28.4%	48
<i>Did not respond</i>	1.8%	3
Total	100.0%	169

## How did you find out about ICUR?

The following table summarizes categories mentioned in the open-ended responses to this question and the count of respondents who mentioned them. The summary is sorted by the greatest number of mentions to the lowest. 140 respondents answered to this question.

CATEGORIES OF COMMENTS	COUNT
Specific faculty or staff member	29
SARE	16
REU program	12
Email	10
Student	7
Program requirement - not specified	6
Project SEED	5
I have previously attended	5
McNair	4
Fellowship	4
SURF	4

Internship	4
Student research participation (not specified)	4
Advisor	4
From the university/school (no specifics given)	3
IFITS	3
Not specified	3
ICUR committee	2
Lab - not specified	2
CAES	2
Office of Undergraduate Research (not necessarily BSU)	2
B2B	2
SRC	2
Announcements (not specified)	1
UI College of Science	1
Lewis-Clark State College Johnston's Lab	1
LSAMP	1
Website	1

### What were your greatest lessons or take-aways from the conference?

The following table summarizes categories mentioned in the open-ended responses to this question and the count of respondents who mentioned them. The summary is sorted by the greatest number of mentions to the lowest. 134 respondents answered to this question; 19 mentioned more than one take-away. The sum of the category counts is 153.

CATEGORIES OF COMMENTS	COUNT
Learn about students'/others' research	32
Opportunity to present/practice presenting my research/poster	11
Exposure to research conference experience	9
Interacting with/meeting students	9
Networking opportunities	8
Learn to communicate to a large audience/people outside my field	7
Different paths to research/careers	6
Diversity of research	6
Graduate school info	5
How to present research/posters	5
In-person reception	5
Learn about fields and types of research	5
Interacting with/meeting faculty/professionals	4
Ability to support students	3
How to conduct research	3
Importance of mentoring	3

Perseverance in research	3
Value of research	3
Diversity of perspectives	2
Gained confidence to present/conduct research	2
Imposter syndrome talk/issues	2
Opportunity to present specifically in person	2
Paired research talks	2
Research is enjoyable	2
Research opportunities	2
Students' positive response to ICUR experience	2
Ability/potential/growth/empowerment of students	1
Attendance/participation level	1
Benefits of a remote/virtual conference platform	1
Breakout sessions - not specified	1
Criticism: Not in person	1
Feedback on my research	1
How to create a poster	1
Meet the Prof session	1
Okay to fail	1
Students' enthusiasm	1

### Strong responses:

- STUDENT: *“After the “talk to a Prof” session I really liked talking to one of the mentors. She was able to provide “deeper” advice that many are not open to talking about. I resonated with the story she shared and hearing what she had to say afterwards were words that will forever be engraved into my brain. I appreciated her words and guidance so much, I reached out after ICUR to meet more often not just about research but the struggling of being a first generation student.”*
- STUDENT: *“Student mentors care very much about the development of their students, and that investment in success makes a big difference.”*
- STUDENT: *“I really enjoyed seeing how many other undergraduate students are interested by research. I also thought hearing from graduate students and students that had entered the workforce after completing their undergraduate degrees was useful. It demonstrated the variety of paths that can be taken.”*
- EDUCATOR: *“WOW! Students are doing incredible work and I am hopeful for the future.”*
- EDUCATOR: *“I love the camaraderie. It was inspiring to see the quality of the undergraduate researchers and how much they were benefiting from working with their faculty mentor.”*
- EDUCATOR: *“It’s great to have an accessible way for Idaho researchers to get together and showcase their work.”*

The complete list of comments grouped by role follows, excluding “n/a” responses.

STUDENTS	
Student	A better understanding of the STEM research field
Student	A greater desire to continue with summer research.
Student	Actually getting the experience of presenting a research poster and sharing what research I actually conducted with peers and seniors.
Student	After the "talk to a Prof" session I really liked talking to one of the mentors. She was able to provide "deeper" advice that many are not open to talking about. I resonated with the story she shared and hearing what she had to say afterwards were words that will forever be engraved into my brain. I appreciated her words and guidance so much, I reached out after ICUR to meet more often not just about research but the struggling of being a first generation student.
Student	Being able to do the in person conference and talk to people
Student	Being able to present my research in a way that people from multiple disciplines could understand
Student	Being confident presenting my research.
Student	Experience
Student	Gaining experience doing poster presentations.
Student	Getting actually involved in presenting my research, and having to put it all together into a collective presentation.
Student	getting the opportunity to do research and share it with others
Student	Getting to connect with everyone
Student	Getting to see other posters on similar topics to my project. I was able to meet with some of the other researchers in my department and floor that I share, as well as researchers from other universities who worked on projects with similar goals to mine.
Student	Graduate students panel
Student	Hearing from the paired student-faculty researchers was really valuable.
Student	Hearing people from all over and what knowledge they offered
Student	How rewarding it is to be part of a research group
Student	How to communicate my research to a general audience; how to talk and listen
Student	How to present data to a broad audience
Student	How to present effectively
Student	I appreciated the knowledge gained with practicing presenting research in a variety of ways, and answering academic questions.
Student	I enjoy presenting.
Student	I finally felt confident in communicating my research to a variety of audiences.
Student	I got to connect with people who shared advise on how to better improve my project.
Student	I learned a lot about other people’s research and different projects going on.
Student	I learned that Imposter Syndrome is real and inevitable and that career path is limitless out there.
Student	I liked getting to know professors from all over Idaho.
Student	I love being able to network and see research outside of my field!
Student	I really appreciated hearing from the graduate students because it put a lot of things I was struggling with into perspective.
Student	I really enjoyed being able to see and talk to other students and professors from different parts of Idaho.
Student	I really enjoyed seeing how many other undergraduate students are interested by research. I also thought hearing from graduate students and students that had entered the workforce after completing their undergraduate degrees was useful. It demonstrated the variety of paths that can be taken.

Student	I really like in-person presenting.
Student	I really liked the grad school talks. I thought learning about experiences for everyone are different so really listening to myself and where I'm at in my career is what is most important.
Student	I think the most impactful part of attending the conference was talking to other researchers and getting to know new ideas.
Student	I was able to learn a lot about other research disciplines
Student	I was surprised at the range of projects taken on by participants.
Student	It was my first time presenting a poster and the most impactful part was the support I felt and the lack of judgement
Student	It was nice that I could practice poster presentation in a conference setting.
Student	It was really interesting to see what others were researching and how they went about it.
Student	It's okay to not know exactly what you are going to go into but still put forth the effort to learn.
Student	Learning about how the process
Student	Learning about new things and meeting others who were in similar situations as me.
Student	Learning about other areas of research and former students in grad school or industry.
Student	Learning about other students' projects and meeting professors from other institutions (I just wish we had more time for those things, especially the profs!)
Student	Learning about the different types of research conducted at Boise State
Student	Learning about the research of others
Student	Learning about the types and methods of research conducted in my field of study
Student	Learning how to communicate research and understand others research outside my own knowledge.
Student	Learning how to present complex scientific ideas to a general audience.
Student	Learning that everyone deals with imposter syndrome and doesn't actually know what they're doing.
Student	learning to present a poster for the first time
Student	listening to others' research is really fun
Student	Making and presenting a scientific poster
Student	Many people experienced failure
Student	My greatest takeaway was the opportunity to present a new poster I had not presented before. It helped me gain more presentation experience.
Student	My take away is that there is no need to rush.
Student	Networking with professors
Student	Other students were doing great work in other disciplines, some of which I didn't even know research could be done in.
Student	Others enjoyed my research and were excited to learn more
Student	Paired research talks were great!!!
Student	People outside of my discipline can still be interested in my research. Also, grad school isn't what I thought it was.
Student	Persistence is key.
Student	Poster presentations, learning about other research being done at my university
Student	Presenting my poster
Student	Presenting my poster and visiting others' posters.
Student	presenting research
Student	Research can be important
Student	Research extends to all fields and it is very exciting to hear other people talk about the work they are proud of
Student	Research takes more time then one might expect.

Student	Seeing friends from other disciplines come.
Student	Seeing research from other researchers in Idaho
Student	Seeing research goes beyond stem
Student	show up and try your best.
Student	Student mentors care very much about the development of their students, and that investment in success makes a big difference.
Student	Talking to other students about their research was the most impactful
Student	That all of our research is really interconnected as we're trying to better understand the world as a whole!
Student	That I don't need to have everything figured out right now.
Student	that I might be interested in public health
Student	That there's so many people passionate about so many things, and are trying hard to change the world.
Student	That undergraduate research is growing at Boise State, which is awesome!
Student	that undergraduate research is possible!
Student	The amount and variety of research that goes on
Student	The general process of making a research poster and then presenting it.
Student	The greatest take-away was how to present my research to others.
Student	the in-person presentation experience
Student	The in-person reception
Student	The intense research experience
Student	The most impactful part of attending ICUR was learning how to present my research.
Student	The posters
Student	The research skills that I learned along the way.
Student	The sense of community in the Research Industry.
Student	To continue to see what pathways everyone takes and what aspects of their lives I can apply to my own.
Student	To keep going down my path
Student	virtual conferencing is not the best format.
Student	What's it's like to present and experience.
<b>EDUCATORS</b>	
Educator	Diversity of research in Idaho
Educator	Great opportunity for students.
Educator	Great opportunity for students. Impressive knowledge.
Educator	great research opportunities
Educator	helping student develop their first-ever poster
Educator	helping students
Educator	How technology allowed me to connect with colleagues on different continents.
Educator	I just like seeing what the undergraduate students are doing and watching my own students grow in there awareness of the academic world
Educator	I love the camaraderie. It was inspiring to see the quality of the undergraduate researchers and how much they were benefiting from working with their faculty mentor.
Educator	I loved seeing so many student posters
Educator	In-person session - very valuable for students
Educator	Interacting with students
Educator	It was great to connect, even briefly, with other college instructors across Idaho
Educator	It's great to have an accessible way for Idaho researchers to get together and showcase their work.
Educator	Meeting excellent students and colleagues

Educator	Mentoring and time-management.
Educator	networking, and the introduction for many students to a professional scientific meeting
Educator	Our students are doing some excellent work!
Educator	seeing all of the variety in the ongoing research that in taking place in Idaho never fails to broaden my horizons
Educator	Seeing the quality of student work
Educator	Seeing the students in 2 projects with which I am associated describe their work to others.
Educator	student presentations for the interesting research, seminars for different models of undergraduate research-you did a great job with seminars and speakers
Educator	Student research presentations were very impressive
Educator	talking to folks at the live event
Educator	The level of attendance this year was fantastic.
Educator	The variety of high quality research projects involving undergraduate students.
Educator	Undergrads do great research.
Educator	We got a great couple of questions from one of our Boise State colleagues. It was very educational for the student, who had never done a poster presentation before.
Educator	WOW! Students are doing incredible work and I am hopeful for the future.
<b>OTHER ROLES</b>	
Other	Awareness of other work on campus
Other	Helped challenge me to ask insightful but balanced questions of the students.
Other	I was able to view posters of UI students.
Other	I was impressed with the work performed by the students and how well they presented their findings.
Other	It was a good opportunity for students to practice communicating their work
Other	It was great to see some of the posters in person at the reception and talk to each of the students!
Other	It was great to see the undergrads work on their projects. The timeline was too short, however.
Other	Listening to the excitement that the students had in their projects.
Other	no comment
Other	Student presentations
Other	The in-person session at ISU was amazing and we well put together.

## What changes in the ICUR would significantly improve the conference experience for you?

The following table summarizes categories mentioned in the open-ended responses to this question and the count of respondents who mentioned them. The summary is sorted by the greatest number of mentions to the lowest. 102 respondents suggested at least one change; 15 made more than one suggestion. 70 respondents either did not answer this question or indicated they had no suggestions for improvement.

CATEGORIES OF COMMENTS	COUNT
Conference - general	53
Poster sessions	19
Other logistics	16
Plenary/breakout/other talk sessions	12
Networking	6



Reception	5
SRC	4
Discipline focus	2
No changes suggested	67

### Highlights:

- Conference - general
  - 49 people desire resuming an in-person conference and/or did not like the virtual format\*
  - 2 people suggested that ICUR be moved to later in the summer
- Poster sessions
  - 5 people said there were few or no attendees for a student's individual poster\*
  - 5 people indicated a preference for in-person sessions specific to the poster presentations; these were generally geared toward allowing more time to see posters and/or having fewer posters available during a given session to increase audience size at individual posters OR grouping posters by discipline
  - 3 people made session structure redesign suggestions
  - 2 people had technological issues
- Plenary/breakout/other talk sessions
  - 5 people felt the sessions weren't long enough. There were specific mentions of the "Meet a Prof" session.
  - 3 people made session structure redesign suggestions\*
- Networking
  - 4 people suggested better/more networking opportunities
- In-Person Receptions
  - 3 people felt the reception was too tight on space.
    - *This is likely specific to the Boise State reception, at least in the cases where posters were mentioned.*
- Other logistics
  - 5 people had technological issues
  - 4 suggested better/more communication of sessions and details before the conference\*
- SRC
  - 4 people responded regarding SRC rather than ICUR and made suggestions regarding those sessions.

*\*Repeat highlight from last year*

### Strong criticisms:

- STUDENT: *“This conference was heavily geared toward STEM majors. It made it very hard for outside majors to interact with everyone involved in the conference and have key takeaways.”*
- STUDENT: *“Although it was eye opening to learn about other majors, I feel that I couldn't make a connection with non-STEM majors.”*
- STUDENT: *“I would suggest having more in-person events to participate in. I know it is easier for people from all over the country to attend on zoom. However, I did not have a stable internet connection for a lot of the conference, and it was difficult for me to find somewhere else to connect to the internet that would have the quiet I needed. I know this is just a one time issue for me, but it would have been nice to have more in person events I could attend.”*
- STUDENT: *“IN PERSON. I understand wanting to include a community of researchers from all over Idaho and that might be difficult to accomplish in person. However, the zoom meetings were not relevant or effective in the least bit. I would love to have better chances to network with other researchers. Zoom did not offer me that opportunity the same way that an in person meeting or casual dinner/reception would have provided.”*
- EDUCATOR: *“The online part was nonsense and i did not attend the poster after not figuring our how it worked and seeing that poster were made for live sessions and not zoom session. the other part was that the icur posters were all too similar and dominated by certain PIs and topics. a single PI should only be on one poster to avoid this”*
- EDUCATOR: *“The conference needs to be in-person. The online format of presenting posters results in very few interactions, which prevents networking and prevents providing students the opportunity to really show off their research. Many students I polled after the conference felt it was a waste to invest so much time putting together a poster but only a few individuals visited their poster session. If ICUR is online again next year, then I will have students participate in another regional conference instead.”*
- OTHER: *“The days were super long.”*
- One student wrote an extremely long reponse; it may be found in the compiled comments list.

Changes/Comments by Category (sorted by the greatest number of mentions to the lowest):

CATEGORY > SPECIFICS	COUNT
<b>Conference - general</b>	<b>53</b>
Desires in-person / did not like virtual format	49
Change dates of conference	2
More undergrad focus	1
Too long	1
<b>Poster sessions</b>	<b>19</b>
Desires in-person / did not like virtual format	5
Few or no attendees for student's individual poster	5
Session structure redesign suggestion	3
Technological issue	2
Fewer students per session	1
Group by discipline	1

More diversity of content	1
More variety of fields	1
<b>Other logistics</b>	<b>16</b>
Technological issue	5
Better/more communication of sessions and details before conference begins	4
Change dates of conference	2
Group by discipline	1
Poster citations	1
Poster printing	1
Submission process is confusing/complicated	1
Website is confusing/difficult to navigate	1
<b>Plenary/breakout/other talk sessions</b>	<b>12</b>
Not long enough	5
Session structure redesign suggestion	3
Allow choosing which session/room/poster to attend	1
Better/more communication of sessions and details before conference begins	1
Desires in-person / did not like virtual format	1
Sessions were repetitive/had the same info	1
<b>Networking</b>	<b>6</b>
Better/more networking opportunities	4
Better/more communication of sessions and details before conference begins	1
Desires in-person / did not like virtual format	1
<b>Reception</b>	<b>5</b>
Too tight on space	3
Change dates of conference	1
Session structure redesign suggestion	1
<b>SRC</b>	<b>4</b>
Session structure redesign suggestion	4
<b>Discipline focus</b>	<b>2</b>
Make accessible to non-STEM majors	1
More science content	1
<b>No changes suggested</b>	<b>67</b>

The complete list of comments grouped by role follows, excluding “n/a” and “none” responses that do not elaborate further.

STUDENTS	
Student	Being able to network with each other more
Student	Being in person
Student	Being in person
Student	Being in person will be fun
Student	Being in person would be great

Student	Better access to information. Know what is going on in advance as to how we will be presenting and such.
Student	Can all ICUR in-person posters be printed for free ahead of time, so no students are dismissed, forgotten, regardless of where their home schools are?
Student	having in person events to talk to other researchers
Student	Having it in person would be much more engaging...
Student	Having it in person.
Student	Having the conference in person would be perfect.
Student	Holding the conference in person.
Student	Honestly, my only big issue with the conference was how confusing the website was. For example, when trying to find the zoom link, going to the ICUR website and clicking 'Schedule' would not show me the link, but if I went to my email and clicked the ICUR website link that was sent to me, it took me to a page labeled 'Schedule' which had the link. I still have no idea how I could have navigated to that page without the email. There were a few other situations like this where I had problems navigating the website.
Student	I believe it was ran very well and currently I do not have any suggestions on optimizing the ICUR experience.
Student	I believe the ICUR could be improved significantly by being an in person conference.
Student	I don't really think any that could be done by the organizers. There weren't a lot of posters or presenters from my field which lessened my enthusiasm a bit, but that's just how the draw goes with who presents.
Student	I feel like it would be interesting to have an in person conference but I understand the need for it to be online
Student	I have no major changes besides being in person, however, that's not applicable this year.
Student	I liked the in-person closing reception last summer (2022). It felt like the next best thing to having the conference in-person.
Student	I loved the idea of "meet a prof" but there definitely wasn't enough time to interact- too much time was taken introducing them.
Student	I think being in person will make ICUR much easier to talk to people and allow people to feel more open to visiting other people's posters.
Student	I think being in-person would greatly benefit the conference
Student	I think that being able to have to conference in-person would make the experience that much more interesting and poignant.
Student	I think that having more in-person events and sessions would be more impactful! That would involve a greater number of buildings or rooms, but I think it is a much greater way to make connections.
Student	I think that I would have benefited most if the session for "Effective Research posters" didn't just go through a "good" or "bad" looking poster but rather the actual process of constructing these posters. I would have liked getting more advice on how large a title should be. about how many words to use, how to edit and make pictures fit nicely, creating and choosing the right graph for the date we are using, or as simple as how do you set up a slide in PowerPoint or google slides to be edited. I found it that just going through multiple posters and finding similar patterns of what is ideal and what is not for a poster could have been narrowed down to only a few minutes and rather than extending that to a full hour session could have used that hour to go through tips and tricks on how to even make and edit these posters.
Student	I think the in-person presentations were much more enjoyable
Student	I thought having the in person closing ceremony before the actual conference started was a little strange. I also did not know about it until a few days before so I wasn't actually able to attend because I had prior commitments. Maybe next year it should be at the conclusion of the conference. Also, the conference being in person would be cool.

Student	I was not all that aware on how to network with other students and observers in the online conference. Some guidance on how to go about that would be much appreciated.
Student	I was satisfied with the ICUR experience
Student	I wish the breakout rooms were just a little longer so we had the opportunity to ask more questions.
Student	I wished that the students knew specifically that they are invited to attend all the sessions and not just the ones they were presenting.
Student	I would have preferred to attend the in-person ICUR, as the zoom conference was quite long.
Student	I would like to attend in person sometime.
Student	I would like to see it in person and I more flexibility with the guest speakers and choosing who I want to hear from.
Student	<p>I would like to see more time spent actively helping participants create their posters and practice their presentations. I work as the only person on my project with little to no outside assistance from others in my lab. Therefore, I was unable to get outside feedback on my poster and presentation leading up to ICUR. I believed that the SRC meetings leading to the conference would help with that but I do not believe that they did. I found that the topics discussed in the beginning stages of SRC were the exact same topics discussed during ICUR prior to the Poster Sessions. Although there were different people talking about different experiences, the overall message and “guidance” given towards participants felt exactly the same.</p> <p>What I would have liked to see was more direct communication and hands-on guidance between SRC/ICUR participants and coordinators/advisors about the posters and presentations. I felt as though SRC established itself as a resource and guide for participants in preparation for ICUR but did not truly give useful guidance for how to create a poster and craft a presentation until it was too late. I personally felt as though I was expected to instead, lean on mentors and colleagues for preparation help, but that was something I did not have the luxury of receiving due to my project’s circumstances.</p> <p>I expected to have multiple SRC sessions leading up to ICUR that were purely focused on having students come with their posters and practice presentations to get feedback do they could adjust their poster accordingly. Instead, I got one session only four days before the Final Posters were due where I felt like I got the same experience as during the first SRC meeting. All we were able to do was explain what our project was about, but we didn’t get to adequately show our posters, practice a presentation, or gain feedback due to lack of time and the fact that some participants had not started their posters. I know of other participants within my own department who had mentors who actively set aside time for their students to practice and prepare for ICUR, something I, again, did not have. Therefore, I was placed in an unfair disadvantage in comparison because I was unable to prepare and make changes to a poster before the deadline. If SRC/ICUR had spent more meetings doing these kinds of exercises, I believe that this issue wouldn’t have existed.</p> <p>Lastly, I believe that ICUR itself occurred too early in the summer. While I understand that universities around Idaho begin and end their projects at different times, it was frustrating that ICUR occurred as early as it did. I do have a unique experience in that my research continues into the school year, but even then, the academic school year doesn’t start until mid-August. Therefore, there was about a month of time between ICUR and the start of the school year in which summer research could be, and is, still occurring. However, the information gathered in that time could not be presented.</p> <p>Participants who work on projects that last for different time periods are placed on a variety of schedules that can prevent meaningful work to be completed by conference time. Being on a more limited time scale reduces participants ability to work through and develop their research and turn it into a presentation. I talked with a handful of participants during early SRC meetings who were in similar situations to me in that they were unable to collect data or work on their project at all for weeks due to a variety of reasons. Therefore, all of us were placed at a disadvantage compared to other researchers who were able to join their project and start working immediately. Pushing back the date</p>

for ICUR would allow for participants on a longer time scale to “catch up” to those who finished their projects earlier, therefore allowing for a more equalized level of research being conducted across all participants.

While I understand that ICUR is not about “gathering data” and that participants can present their project without gathering data at all, I still found it incredibly stressful to finally get data a week before the poster was due and then have only a few days to analyze that data and turn it into useable content for my poster. I felt as though I did not have enough time to adequately synthesize my data and create a poster that showed what I truly wanted to share.

If the “Poster Deadline” that was imposed this year was purely a “rough draft” deadline instead of the deadline for the final poster that could not be changed after submission, I do not believe that this process would have been as stressful and mentally taxing as it had been. Instead, I would have been able to show this rough draft to my peers and other advisors to gain helpful feedback on what could be improved upon in the poster as well as any additional information that they wanted to see.

In my opinion, this would be a significantly better use of time during SRC meetings leading to ICUR because it allows participants to not only gain a community of fellow undergraduate researchers, but it also actively helps them learn how to create posters and presentations, as well as how to take constructive criticism and use it to improve their project. This is something that everyone will experience at some point in their career, regardless of if they end up in a research field or not, and therefore it is vital to spend time practicing so that participants young and old, new or veterans to research, can understand how to take that feedback and use it to their advantage.

Overall, please consider pushing back the date of ICUR at least a week or two to allow for more time to be spent gathering data for projects that may have been setback for whatever reason. Further, please consider altering some of the original content of early SRC meetings and develop multiple meetings that instead focus on actively helping students craft posters and presentations and allow for feedback from peers. I believe that it is significantly more beneficial for participants to be given more time to learn how to craft presentations and gain feedback on them prior to ICUR. Finally, I believe that it is a much better use of time for some content from this year’s SRC meetings be kept primarily to the ICUR Sessions leading to the Poster Sessions to allow for more engagement during those presentations and free time to insert the suggestions I have made. All presenters at ICUR deserve to be listened to and focused on, however if participants have already learned what these speakers are advocating for, this does not occur. Instead, time should be spent preparing posters and presentations leading to ICUR so that participants can learn what they can do with the new skills and information that they have learned during the early sessions of ICUR.

I greatly appreciate that you have created this opportunity for undergraduate and even high school researchers to come together and I hope that this feedback will allow for this opportunity to improve even more in the future.

Student	I would rather it have been in person
Student	I would suggest having more in-person events to participate in. I know it is easier for people from all over the country to attend on zoom. However, I did not have a stable internet connection for a lot of the conference, and it was difficult for me to find somewhere else to connect to the internet that would have the quiet I needed. I know this is just a one time issue for me, but it would have been nice to have more in person events I could attend.
Student	If it were in-person, it'd be easier to be engaged and I would have hopefully had more than one person (who wasn't already familiar with my project) stop by my poster.
Student	If presenters were able to familiarize themselves with Fourwaves, as a presenter, before poster sessions.
Student	In person meeting, change the questions for the industry people to less about personal life and more about their role in industry, make more major specific

Student	In person poster presentation.
Student	In person!
Student	IN PERSON. I understand wanting to include a community of researchers from all over Idaho and that might be difficult to accomplish in person. However, the zoom meetings were not relevant or effective in the least bit. I would love to have better chances to network with other researchers. Zoom did not offer me that opportunity the same way that an in person meeting or casual dinner/reception would have provided.
Student	In-person would make networking and staying awake easier
Student	Just make it in person, as a whole.
Student	Make it in person
Student	make it in person
Student	More in depth talks with undergraduate students.
Student	More interactions between current grad students and the undergrad students
Student	More time in Meet the Prof breakout rooms to ask questions
Student	More time per session or fewer posters per session
Student	Moving away from the fourwaves platform.
Student	Not doing the conference online.
Student	not sure
Student	Nothing it was fine.
Student	Nothing, I liked how it worked.
Student	Nothing.
Student	Online meetings are really hard to stay excited about, in-person would be much more preferred and engaging.
Student	Perhaps transitioning better from smaller groups to bigger ones
Student	Providing more time in the breakout rooms for interaction with the professors would have been beneficial.
Student	Registration date being accurate.
Student	Scheduling SRC at a more convenient time
Student	Shorter weekly meetings!
Student	Splitting the posters up into more groups would help people view more posters
Student	Switching from Fourwaves to in-person or another format.
Student	Talks sometimes seemed to not align with what folks were studying. I was invited to the conference under the impression it was more biological science based but speakers or panel members were from political or communication backgrounds and that wasn't as helpful for me.
Student	The conference should be in person. Presenting a poster online was awful.
Student	The in-person conference could have been more structured to make the posters an important part of the event.
Student	The in-person reception in the Micron Center for Materials Research was super tight and hard to navigate, but pizza was an excellent idea.
Student	The poster session needs to be in person, i only had one person come to my poster so it felt like a huge waste of time and effort. Maybe do a poster award and have a group of judges so everyone could at least share their research with 2 judges
Student	The processing method
Student	This conference was heavily geared toward STEM majors. It made it very hard for outside majors to interact with everyone involved in the conference and have key takeaways.
Student	Would love the opportunity to do more in person poster sessions and networking!
<b>EDUCATORS</b>	
Educator	A slightly later date for the conference.

Educator	Attendance was very low. I am guilty of only attending the 2 posters of students in projects I am affiliated with, and not others. I think attendance online by non-presenters/mentors was very small. The process of nominating a student was ok for me, but unclear to others. It is summer and not everyone is around full time, so lead time needed to be more.
Educator	Can we please get a persistent link, DOI, and citation for the poster presentation? It is very convenient to be able to highlight the presentation for resumes and reporting purposes.
Educator	Having smaller poster sessions would increase the traffic flow so people would get questions. It was OK in person I think as people spread out, but I had a couple students that didn't get any visitors (besides me and the others in my group). Having more poster sessions (that are even smaller) would help.
Educator	having the conference in-person or using a different hosting platform. Finding and attending posters was challenging. If you attended a poster, you had to log out and log back in to attend another one in that same session. Having posters grouped (or at least searchable) by Discipline would be very helpful.
Educator	I know some students were disappointed at the lack of people coming to their poster session.
Educator	I like when the paired research talks were more conversational between students and faculty.
Educator	I think you do the best you could have using Fourwaves and having the conference on line. In person is a much more engaging event, of course. The main problem I had was that there were so many posters in each session and with the Fourwaves site, I could not visit very many, and some of my students did not have many visitors to their poster. In person, with people strolling to posters, this would be less of a problem. Thank you for the great event.
Educator	I though the conference was very well run. Personally, I would love to see it return to in-person simply for the increased interaction between attendees. I thought the BSU in-person reception was great.
Educator	It would be more engaging if the content was organized by topics/disciplines.
Educator	Larger room for the in person presentations. the room was too small for the number of presentations.
Educator	Maybe more in person at BSU. Next year I'll have my students give in person poster presentations but maybe not both in person and virtual. That is asking too much of them.
Educator	More in person poster presentations.
Educator	More in-person as feasible
Educator	More time for networking with both students and colleagues
Educator	please consider shifting back to an in-person conference: last year's student had zero visitors during the poster session and this year's only had one visitor outside our research group
Educator	Poster sessions should just not be done online.
Educator	The conference needs to be in-person. The online format of presenting posters results in very few interactions, which prevents networking and prevents providing students the opportunity to really show off their research. Many students I polled after the conference felt it was a waste to invest so much time putting together a poster but only a few individuals visited their poster session. If ICUR is online again next year, then I will have students participate in another regional conference instead.
Educator	The online part was nonsense and i did not attend the poster after not figuring our how it worked and seeing that poster were made for live sessions and not zoom session.  the other part was that the icur posters were all too similar and dominated by certain PIs and topics. a single PI should only be on one poster to avoid this
Educator	Though no one at BSU realizes this fact, Idaho has two time zones. They have different times of day, separates by an hour. Therefore, whenever you post any scheduling at all, always include the time zone that is being used. It matters not how important or insignificant the event is, always include the time zone that is being used.
Educator	Trying to access the Fourwaves site the day before the conference to check out the detailed schedule, make sure I had access, etc. was frustrating since it wasn't really open yet. Might include some sort of statement with registration that says when the site will actually be accessible.



**OTHER ROLES**

Other	Allowing students more time to work on their projects. I think posters should be divided into sessions based on topic to increase the number of people who engage each student. Really low engagement outside each students immediate work circle.
Other	For in person, larger space so posters are less crowded. Seems like that size crowd was not anticipated.
Other	Give the undergrads a little more time to work on their projects.
Other	I think that the all in-person finale planned for next year will be an awesome addition
Other	In person
Other	Some weird audio echoes on Fourwaves--not sure how to fix
Other	The days were super long.
Other	The login/sign up process was exhaustively tedious! Would have loved to be able to click a link and join/sign in with an existing account (i.e. Google single sign-on, etc)
Other	Virtual works, fills a niche, but I always prefer in person for the networking and learning that happens as well as the friendships that follow. You did nothing wrong, people worked hard. I just gave you my honest feedback.