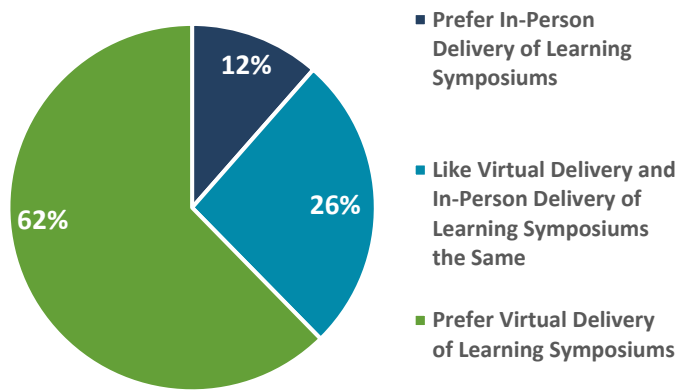


# Executive Summary: Learning Symposium 2021 - Bridging the Distance

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing the way people work globally. The annual Learning Symposium was similarly affected, as it was delivered virtually. A summary of the survey results is presented in this report.

## Symposium Delivery Preference

Of the 463 survey respondents, 62% preferred the virtual delivery of this symposium, while 26% did not have a preference of delivery.



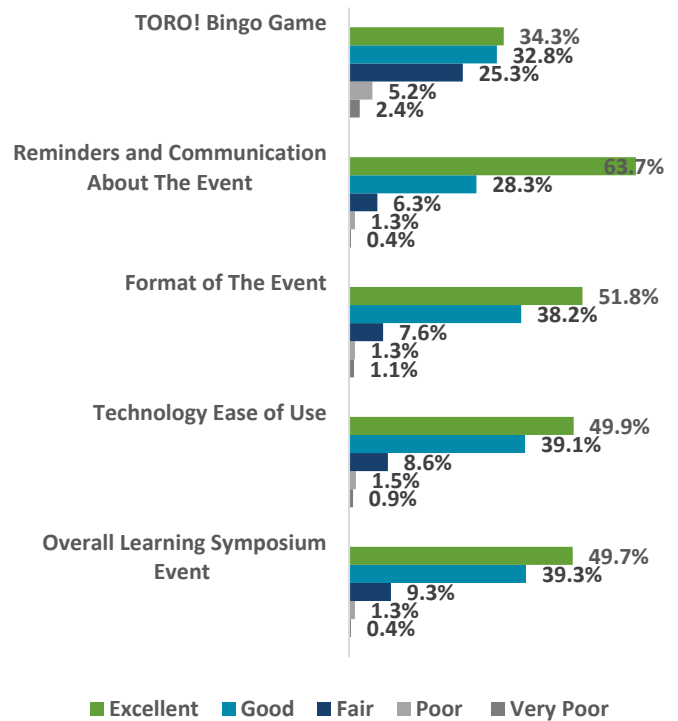
Only one (1) participant did not answer this question.

## Activity Rating

- Approximately half of the respondents rated the *overall learning symposium*, the *ease of use of technology*, and the *format of the event* as “Excellent”.
- 63.7% of respondents rated the *reminders and communications* for the event as “Excellent”.
- 34.3% of respondents rated the *TORO! Bingo Game* as “Excellent”, and 32.8% rated it as “Good”.

Overall, responses suggest participants generally had a positive experience given that “Excellent” was the most frequent rating for each activity.

## Activity Rating



## Keynote Speakers

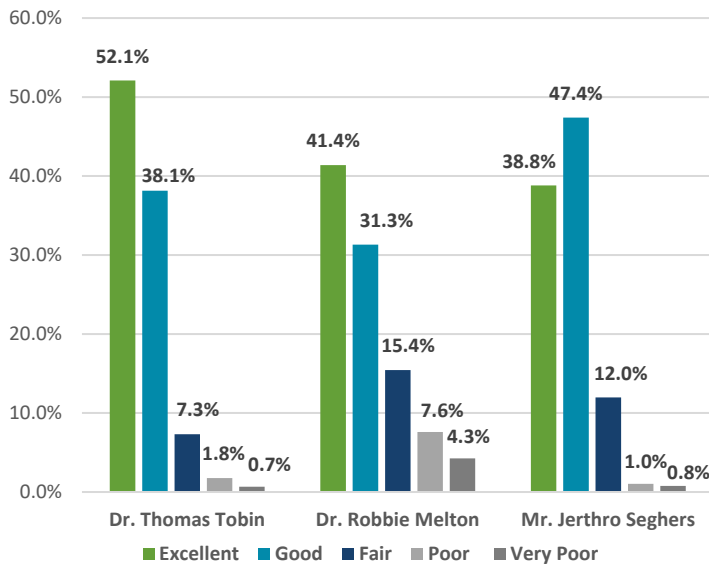
In this section, the respondents’ opinions about the keynote speakers’ presentations are detailed.

- **Session 1:** Dr. Thomas Tobin’s session, “Bridging the Distance: 3 Keys for Remote Teaching Success” (451 responses)
- **Session 2:** Dr. Robbie Melton’s session, “The Emergence of The Internet of Everything (IoE): Smart-Connected Devices for On-Demand Transformation of Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” (447 responses)
- **Session 3:** Mr. Jethro Seghers’ session, “Teams Teasers: Future Fun with Canvas and More” (384 responses)

The three speakers were evaluated in the following categories: Overall, Information Shared, Applicability, and Interest in Follow-up Training. The proportion of respondents that indicated they “Did Not Attend” sessions was low, ranging from 2% to 4% for the first two sessions, and 17.1% for the closing session. (N = 463)

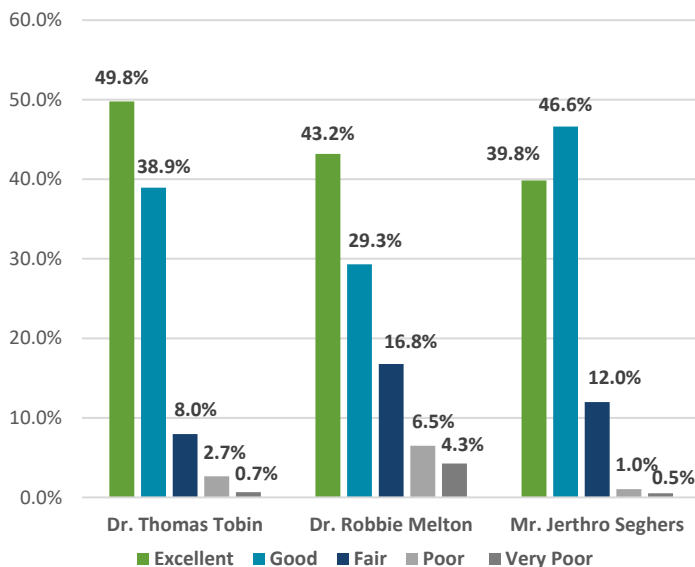
## Overall

Respondents were generally pleased with the keynote speakers. “Excellent” or “Good” consistently had more than 70% of the responses. The second keynote speaker received the highest percentage of “Very Poor” ratings. A few comments at the end of the survey referred to her talking style and filler word choices as points of frustration.



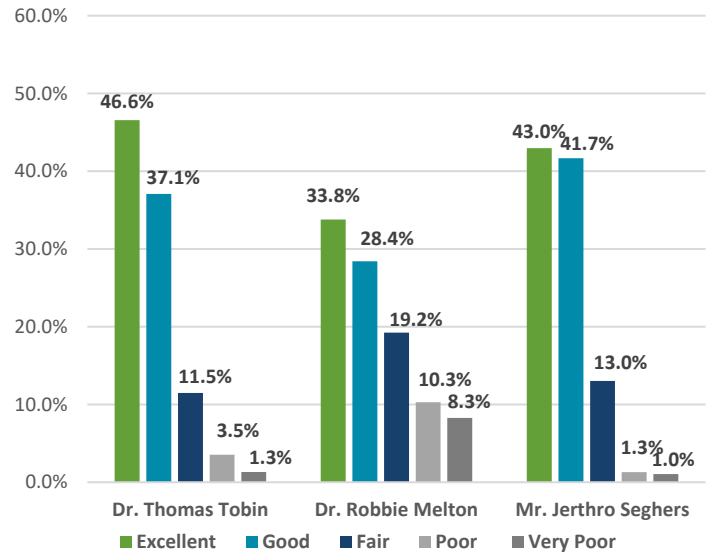
## Information Shared

Respondents were mostly positive about the information shared. Over 70% of responses were “Excellent” or “Good” for all three speakers.



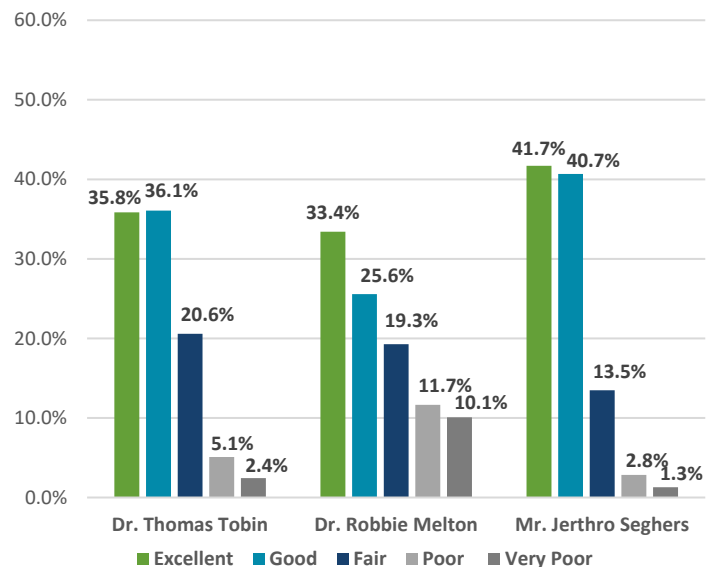
## Applicability

Respondents found the keynote topics quite applicable. The “Excellent” or “Good” ratings for all keynote speakers were the two highest categories. Respondents found Dr. Melton’s topic to be slightly less applicable, with a “Very Poor” applicability rating of 8.3%.



## Follow-up Training Interest

Respondents found the keynote presentations relatively effective in generating interest in follow-up training with an “Excellent” rating between 33%-42% for that statement.



# Concurrent Break-Out Sessions

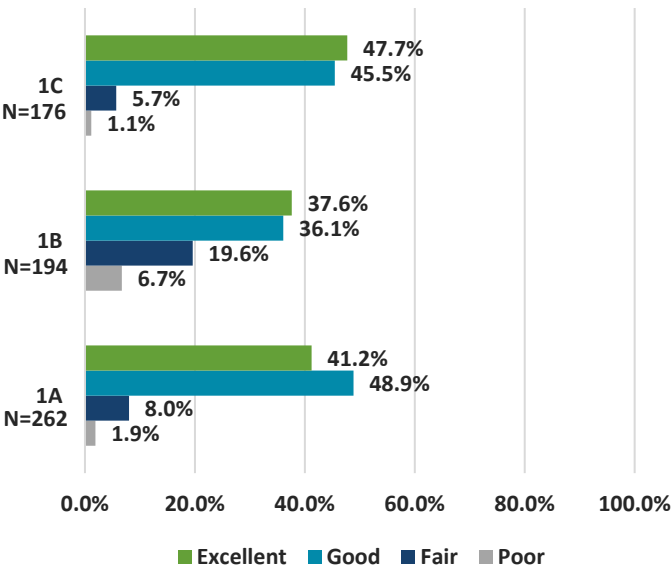
## GROUP 1

**Session 1A:** *A Checklist for Remote Teaching – Ms. Alexandra M. Pickett*

**Session 1B:** *Un-grading: A Road to Equity – Mr. David Buck*

**Session 1C:** *Multigenerational Collaborative: Building a Bridge – Dr. Jennifer Wimbush*

Respondents were generally positive, with “Excellent” or “Good” accounting for over 70% of responses. For session 1A, “Good” was the most cited category. Respondents indicating they “Did Not Attend” a session varied greatly - for session 1A, 43.4%; session 1B, 58.1%; and session 1C, 62.0%. (N = 463)



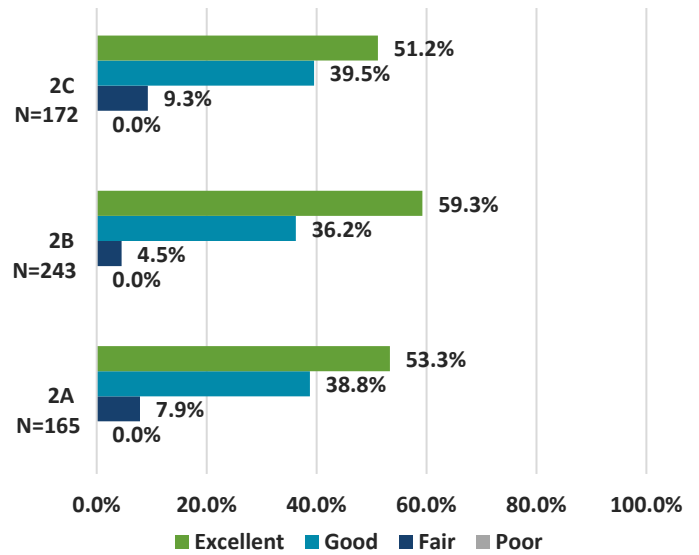
## GROUP 2

**Session 2A:** *ADA Compliance and Course Development – Mr. Justin Louder*

**Session 2B:** *The Importance of Instructor Presence and Engagement in Online Classes – Dr. Cristina Sullivan*

**Session 2C:** *Mental Health First Aid- Bridging the Gap Between Mental Health or Substance-use Problems and Resources for Help – Ms. Denise Kavenik*

For each session in Group 2, more than half of the respondents found the sessions to be “Excellent”. It is also important to note that none of the respondents found any of the sessions in Group 2 to be “Poor”.



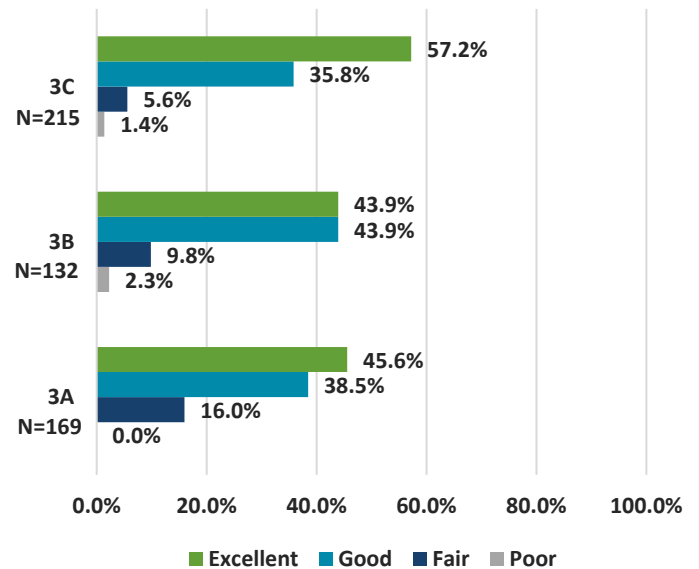
## GROUP 3

**Session 3A:** *OERTX: What is OER and How it is Used in Texas Higher Education – Ms. Kylah Torre*

**Session 3B:** *Complementary Learning with LinkedIn Learning Online Video Library – Ms. Laurie Burruss*

**Session 3C:** *Leadership and Relationship Building in a Pandemic Environment – Dr. Christine Hubbard*

For all the sessions in Group 3, most respondents found the sessions to be “Excellent”. It is also important to note that none of the respondents found any of the sessions in Group 3 to be “Poor”.

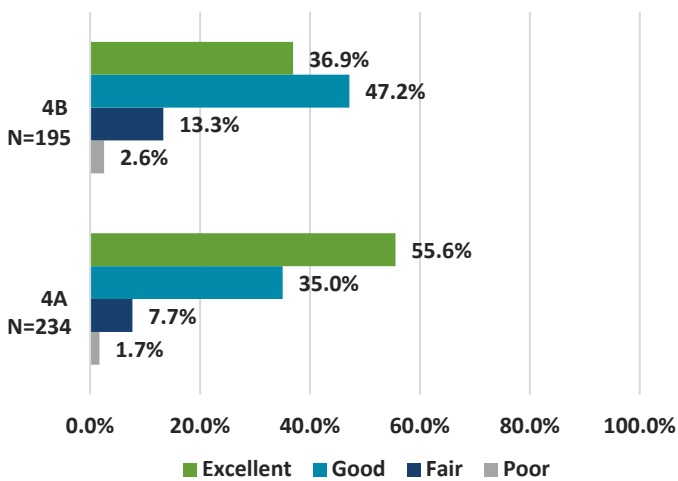


## GROUP 4

**Session 4A:** *A Very Brief Introduction to Canvas LMS – Ms. Allegra Davis Hanna*

**Session 4B:** *The Proctorio Learning Integrity Platform – Mr. Amy Sloan*

Roughly 56% (N = 234) of respondents found session 4A to be “Excellent” and roughly 47% (N = 195) of respondents found session 4B to be “Good”, indicating a less positive view on the second session of Group 4.

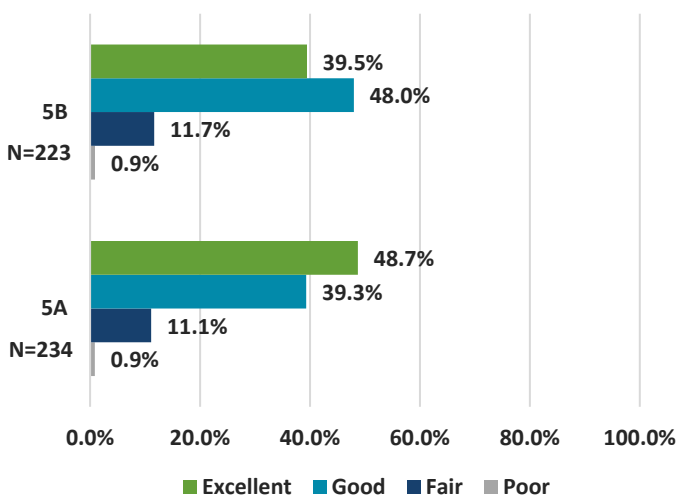


## GROUP 5

**Session 5A:** *Microsoft Teams 101 – Ms. Monique Lindsay*

**Session 5B:** *Introducing the new Barnes & Noble Faculty AIP Tool – Ms. Kate Dominguez*

Respondents were positive in their evaluation of Group 5 sessions. About 88% of respondents evaluated the sessions as “Excellent” or “Good”.



## Conclusion

Respondents were positive in their view of the Learning Symposium. In the open response section, most of the comments were giving thanks and congratulations for organizing a “great symposium”. There were a few suggestions and requests that were prevalent throughout, concerning the following:

- A virtual symposium is decidedly preferred; many respondents agree with the sentiment that *“doing this [the Learning Symposium] virtually...should be continued...”* and that despite *“...a few technology problems with connectivity [sic.] ...”* the general assessment of this format— that materialized due to necessity— is that, *“...this [learning symposiums] could be done more often now and really [sic.] casts a wider net...”*
- The most common concerns and suggestions were:
  - That the symposium *“...build in a little more time for breaks between sessions...”*
  - The lunch break was cited as being too short and possibly needed to be *“...either a full half hour or an hour...”*
  - Several attendees also requested for two half-days of sessions versus one long day.
- Several respondents requested an expanded “seat” capacity for sessions. Specifically, some respondents were unable to attend the Microsoft Teams and Canvas information sessions. Some respondents felt that they had to leave a session early *“...in order to get [one’s] space in a popular session...”*