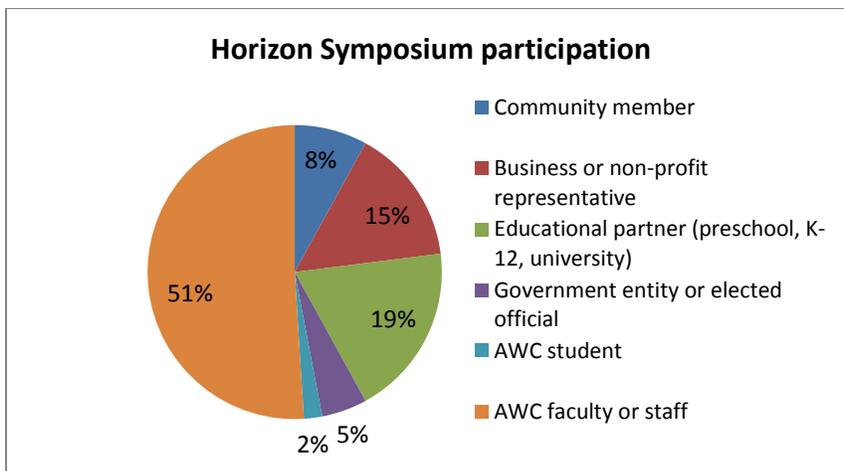


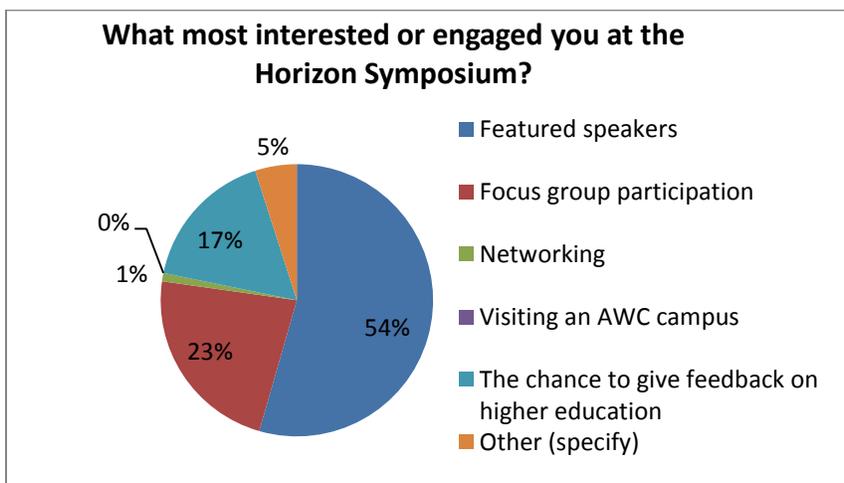
Arizona Western College
 Horizon Symposium, April 28 & 29, 2017
 Yuma, San Luis and Parker, Arizona
Executive Summary

In April of this year, nearly 480 people participated in a college + community event at the Yuma, Parker and San Luis campuses of Arizona Western College. The goal was to engage people about the future of higher education in our region by hosting four speakers -- who are leaders in their respective fields -- in timely, impactful subjects, and then to invite participants to join a topic-specific focus group to create impact statements about how they picture the college of the future. Here are a few important points:

1. Based on a post-event online survey, Horizon Symposium participant mix was diverse, with almost 50% coming from external groups.



2. Participants who responded to the post-event survey indicated they were most interested in or engaged by the featured speakers and the opportunity to participate in a focus group.



3. Of survey respondents, 71% said they strongly agreed and 29% agreed that they were likely to attend a follow-up strategic planning event at Arizona Western College

4. To date, almost 1,400 people (duplicated) have participated in AWC Strategic Planning events.
5. The next chance for college personnel to participate in strategic planning is the Faculty and Staff workshop: Impact Statement to Strategic Direction on August 16.
6. The next chance for the community to participate in strategic planning is the Strategic Planning Update and Community Focus Groups on December 1.

Participants in the Horizon Symposium generated thoughtful, provocative and strategic impact statements after listening to Symposium speakers and melding their message with the realities and needs of the region. Each of the 17 focus groups highlighted their top 2 impact statements. Following is a summary of the impact statements that are representative of the top 2 from each group. The Strategic Planning Task Force will consider all of the focus group statements as input into the development of the strategies that will drive the future of AWC.

Frequently cited words included *economic growth, affordability, poverty, opportunity, values, partnership, accessibility, careers, personalization.*

Impact Statement summaries for each topic

Uplifting Communities through Educational Equity

- AWC: A local champion of the educational continuum (cradle to college career) to enhance higher education obtainment and career readiness, supporting economic development to raise the expectation of college completion.
- With future changing demographics equitable access to higher education and the required technological resources to anticipate future needs is an issue. AWC needs to incorporate technology that attracts and inspires a diverse student population.

Design Thinking for Student & Community Success

- Long term dedication to fact based design of courses, programs and scheduling will position AWC to be more competitive.
- Embrace Community Partnerships to increase technological education, creative and artistic opportunities, early learning, and senior education learning,
- Meet the needs of Diverse students at every level with high expectations.

Aligning Economic Development & Education to Enhance the Region

- Students are increasingly demanding flexibility in the academic experience. AWC needs to look into varied, data driven, modes and methods to meet the demands of a diverse student population.
- Arizona Western College will be the model of efficiency and proficiency by providing portable, accessible, affordable and customized education to every college-bound student in Yuma and La Paz counties. AWC must model its curriculum to match students' views of what is possible.

Leveraging Consumer Trends for Regional Development

- Technology is increasingly and critically important to higher education. AWC must invest in technology, develop partnerships with providers and provide adequate training to personnel NOW and in the FUTURE to provide personalized/flexible delivery of education and to meet the continually changing demands of our students.
- Millennials will be the majority of our current and future students, Therefore, the higher education learning experience needs to be flexible, personalized, impactful, satisfying and inspiring.
- AWC will be able to increase enrollment and student engagement by providing opportunities to personalize the learning experience.