

Report on KATESOL/BE 2006

On February 3-4, 2006, the 24th annual conference of the Kansas Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/Bilingual Educators (KATESOL/BE) was held at Kansas State University. Promotion, early registration, and on-site logistics were handled by the K-State Division of Continuing Learning, whose team was led by Mary Marston, DCE Program Coordinator. The Conference Chair was Dr. Socorro Herrera, Professor of Secondary Education and Co-Director of the CIMA Center. The Sponsors of KATESOL/BE 2006 were: the K-State College of Education; the K-State Division of Continuing Education; the Midwest Equity Assistance Center; and the CIMA Center. Co-hosting the event were: the Riley County Family and Children Resource Center; the Manhattan USD 383 Adult Learning Center; the K-State Department of Modern Languages; the International Student Center at K-State; the English Language Program at K-State; and the BESITOS Grants and Scholarship Programs of K-State.

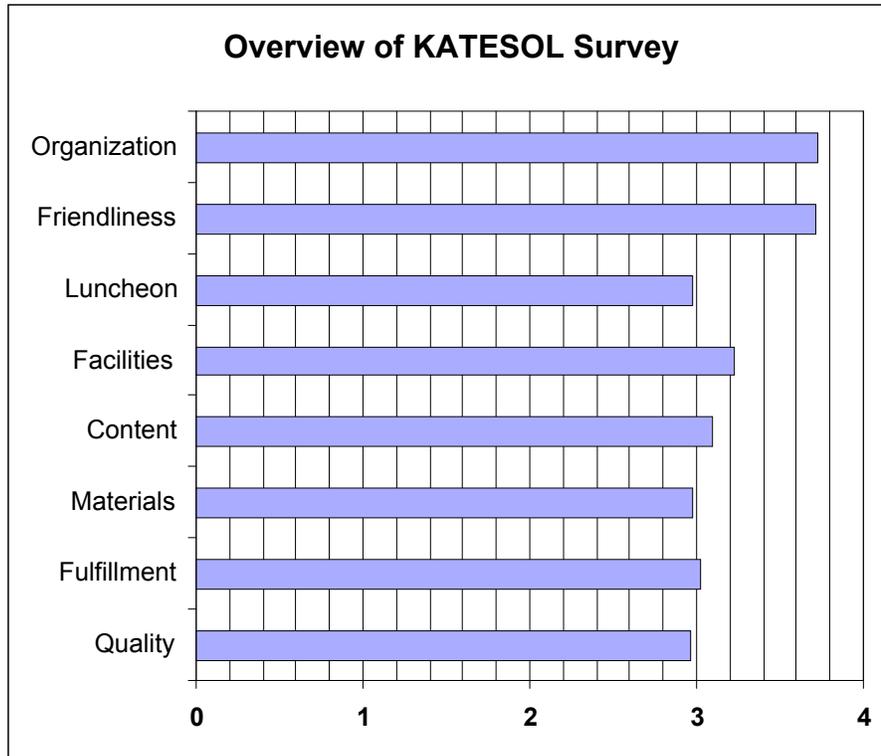
There were 461 conference registrations prior to the conference date, including 132 who added one of four Pre-Conference Institutes on Friday morning, February 3rd, to their regular conference registrations. Another 100 participants from Dr. Jenny Bay-William's ACUMEN Grant conference joined KATESOL attendees at the Pre-Conference Institute, "The Discourse of Mathematics and Science." Friday afternoon featured six different "Open Symposia," free and open to the K-State campus community and heavily attended by candidates from College of Education programs.

There were 450 in attendance at Friday evening's "Opening Ceremony," where BESITOS students Angela Bucher, Enrique Estrella, Lupe Magano, Antonia Mendez, Elvia Sanchez, and Andrea Pardo performed "Teatro" and KATESOL/BE President Dr. Della Perez recognized the ten (10) recipients of the KATESOL/BE Honor Roll for 2006-2007. The Keynote Speaker for Friday evening was Dr. Kathy Escamilla, Associate Professor of Social, Multicultural and Bilingual Foundations, at the School of Education, University of Colorado-Boulder. K-State Provost Dr. M. Duane Nellis gave greeting remarks on Friday evening at this opening event, held in the K-State Union Grand Ballroom.

There were 500 attendees at Saturday's annual KATESOL/BE Dinner, held in the Grand Ballroom. The Keynote Speaker at Saturday's noon event was Melinda Lewis, Director of Research and Advocacy, at El Centro, of Kansas City, Kansas. Dean Michael Holen of the K-State College of Education delivered a greeting at this event.

Please refer to Appendix A for a list of the affiliations of attendees from the 2006 KATESOL/BE Conference.

A survey was included in each conference packet, and 55 surveys were turned in on Saturday afternoon at boxes conveniently located at the registration/info tables maintained by DCE staff all day Friday and Saturday, February 3-4, 2006.



Eight statements were given for respondents to rate, using a Likert scale (1-4).

The conference registration was efficiently organized.

The conference staff was friendly and cooperative.

I enjoyed the luncheon.

The facilities met the needs of conference participants.

The content of the conference was meaningful and relevant.

The supporting materials (i.e.-handouts, audio visuals, etc) were relevant and helpful.

The conference met my expectations.

The overall quality of the conference was:

On a Likert scale, from 1 (poor) to 4 (excellent), organization and friendliness received the highest marks, 3.73 and 3.71, respectively. Next highest were the facilities, 3.23, conference content, 3.10, and meeting expectations (fulfillment), 3.02. The KATESOL Annual Dinner, or “luncheon,” was rated 2.98, as were supporting materials. The overall quality of the event was rated 2.96.

The following are some of the comments written by respondents who were asked “How can you use what you learned this weekend in your position/district?” and “Please list the strengths of this conference.”

The best conference I've ever attended!

The keynote speakers were fantastic!

The great variety of speakers—AWESOME pre-conference sessions.

Many of the presenters reinforced what I already knew, but gave me more knowledge to take back and share with staff and administrators.

The positive attitude and exuberance of the presenters served as a “pep rally” for me. I plan on rededicating myself to the role of ESL educator.

I can go back to my school and use several ideas immediately with my ELL students.

Will use in teaching my college courses this week.

Kathy Escamilla!!! Besitos! What an inspiration!

Survey participants were also asked: “Please list areas of the conference needing improvement.” The following are representative responses.

Too many choices in each time slot.

Not enough adult education sessions.

More handouts need to be available. More chairs need to be available.

The students in my school come from 35 language groups. The conference did not address diverse language groups.

Be more specific about rolls and coffee, where they are located.

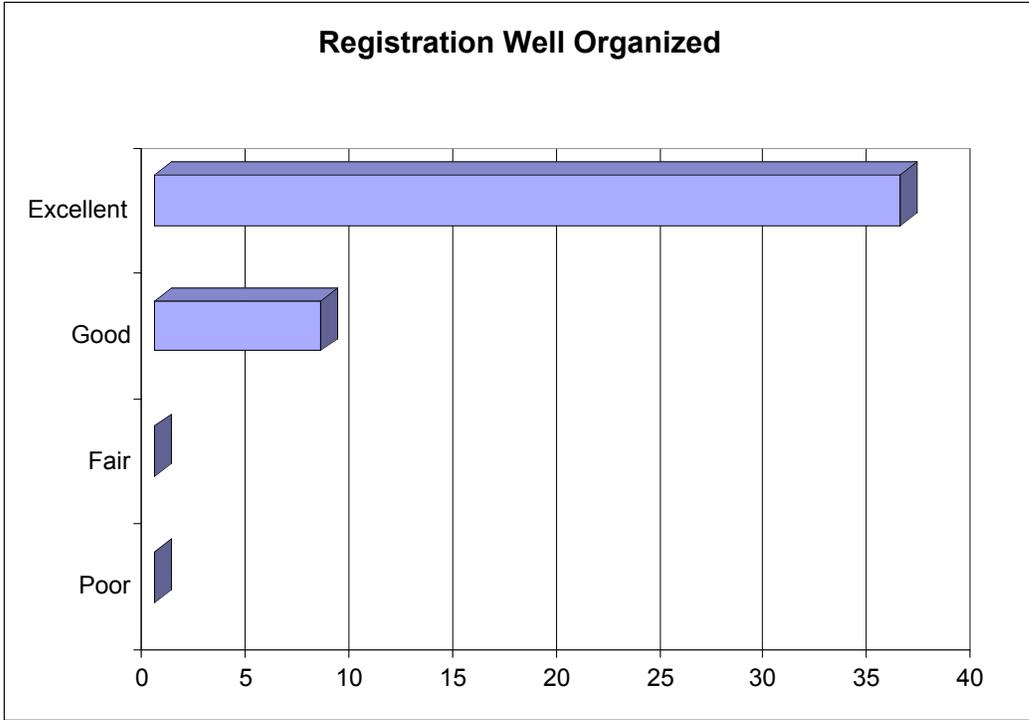
In the last part of the conference, the schedule was changed and it was not enough time for the audience to ask questions.

Rooms were cold. Chicken was dry.

Not a lot to choose from in regards to elementary focus.

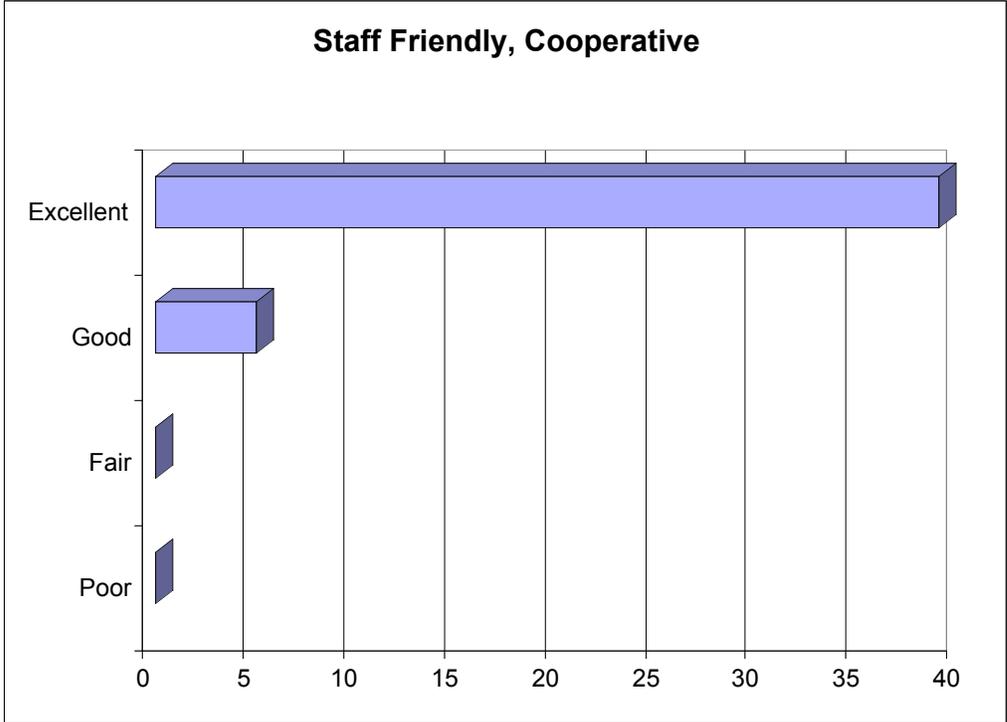
Try to limit late arrivals to sessions.

Italian dressing helped the chicken.



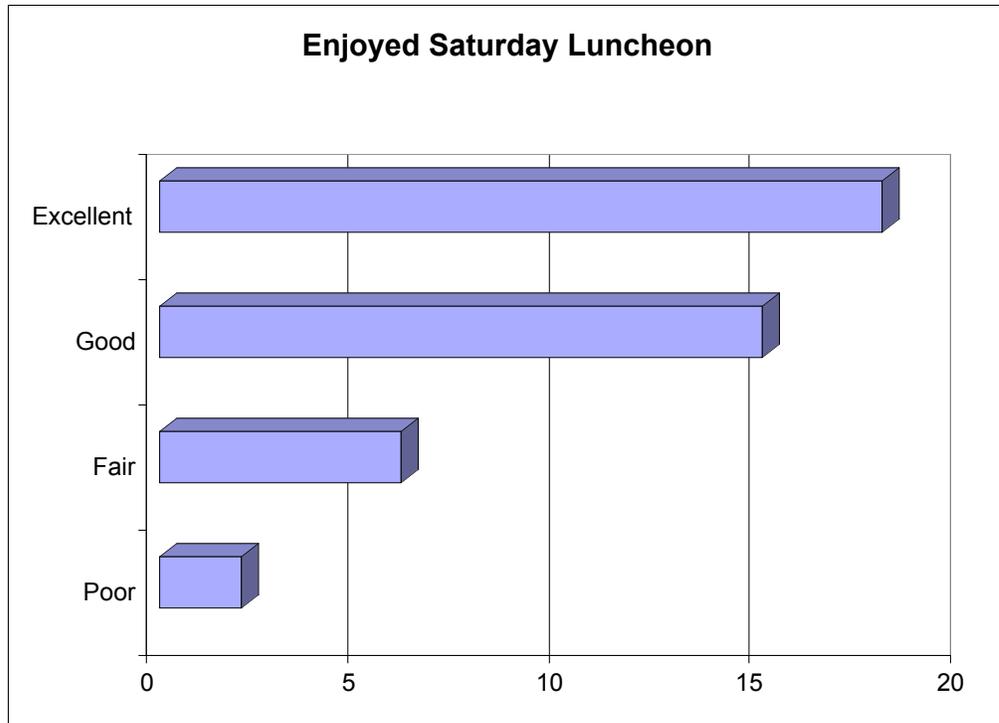
3.73 / 45 respondents

The data on how well the conference registration was organized is clear-cut. Signage posted on the ground floors of the K-State Union led attendees to further signs on the second floor, and directly to the registration/info tables, maintained by DCE personnel throughout both days of the conference.



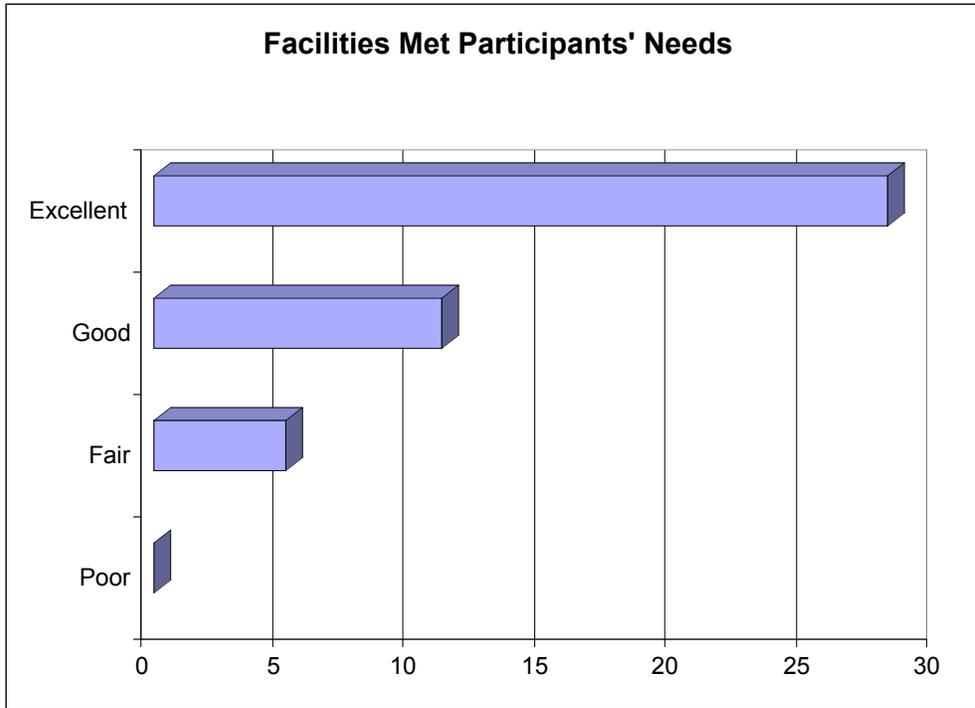
3.71 / 46 respondents

Not only were DCE staff at the registration/info desk friendly and cooperative, but the CIMA support staff, especially Mario Morales, who did the technology set-ups for all eight session rooms on Friday and all ten session rooms on Saturday and performed quick, efficient troubleshooting throughout the weekend, also contributed to the overwhelmingly positive ratings from participants on the second Likert item above. It is further important to mention that K-State Union staff, under the direction of Craig Johnson, K-State Union Assistant Director, were at all times friendly, helpful, and efficient. Mr. Johnson himself was on site both Friday and Saturday, and facilitated several room changes as session attendance numbers appeared ready to fluctuate.



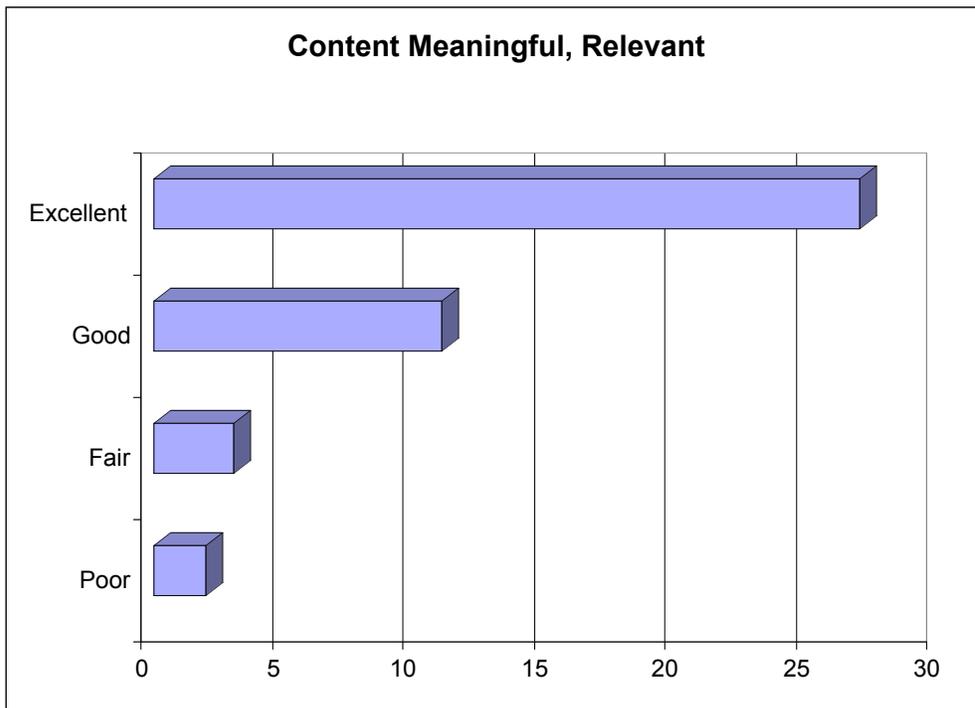
2.98 / 44 respondents

As indicated in some of the “for improvement” comments earlier listed, there were some negative responses to the chicken that was served at the “plated dinner” at lunchtime on Saturday. A room full of 500 hungry ESL teachers and administrators will always be a challenge for food service personnel. In this case, people were given nearly 30 minutes to eat their salads before the main course—with the infamous “dry chicken”—was served by waiters moving quickly among the many tables. The delay impacted the agenda at the podium, and the keynote speaker had to give her address at rapid-fire speed to try to make up lost time so that afternoon sessions could start almost on schedule.



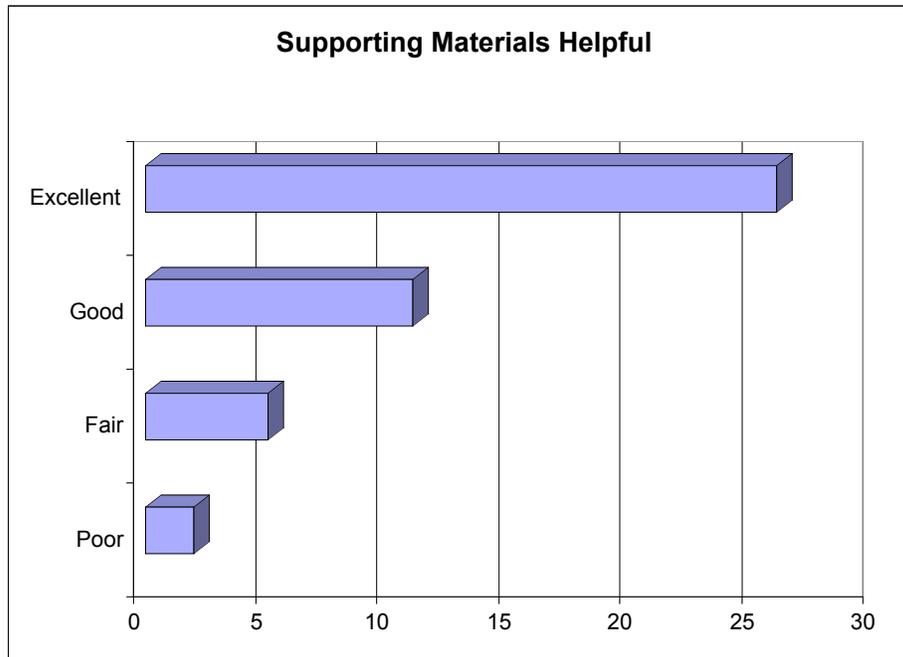
3.23 / 48 respondents

As earlier cited comments indicate, the rooms might have been a little cold, and some of the sessions were packed to overflowing. The invited speakers were nationally and internationally known researchers and practitioners, but many of the other concurrent sessions, with local and regional presenters, were nearly as well attended.



3.10 / 48 respondents

The very high number of excellent “4” ratings given to the conference content reflects a planning process which brought experts on research-based ESL instruction to the K-State campus, and provided pre-conference, “open symposium” and conference session access to their presentations.

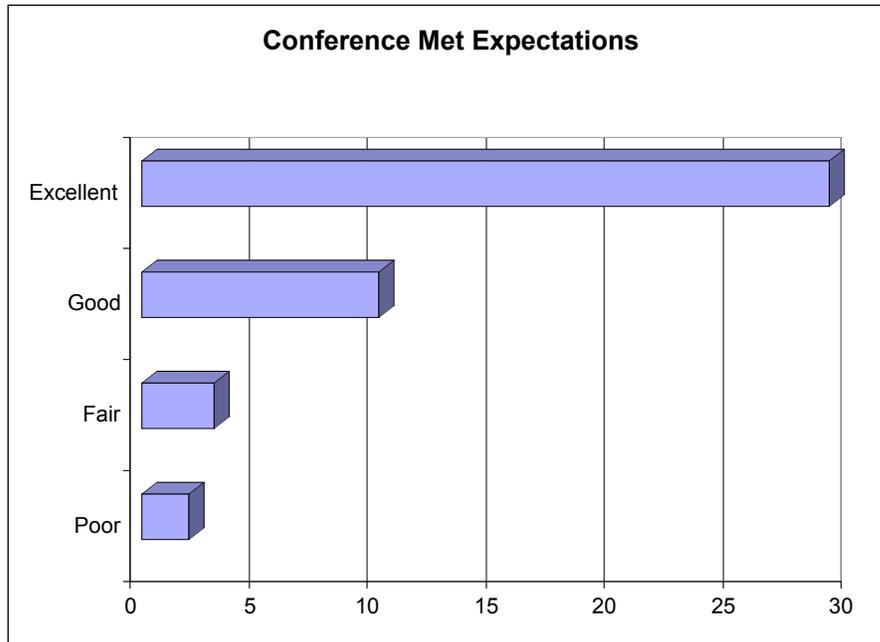


2.98 / 48 respondents

Almost none of the presenters at the KATESOL/BE 2006 Conference were provided with courtesy photocopying of their handouts ahead of the event. Speakers were asked to bring 25-30 copies of handouts and encouraged to e-mail PowerPoint files and Word documents to be posted in an archive on the Internet for participants to access in advance of, during, and after the conference. There is still a strong reliance on paper among educators, and this created some severe bottlenecks at some of the most highly trafficked sessions, prompting the DCE staff to take the initiative and run additional copies to accommodate all requests. On Friday, this meant heavy usage of the K-State Union’s copy center on the main floor; on Saturday, it meant several trips by DCE staff over to their College Court facilities to run off the needed copies.

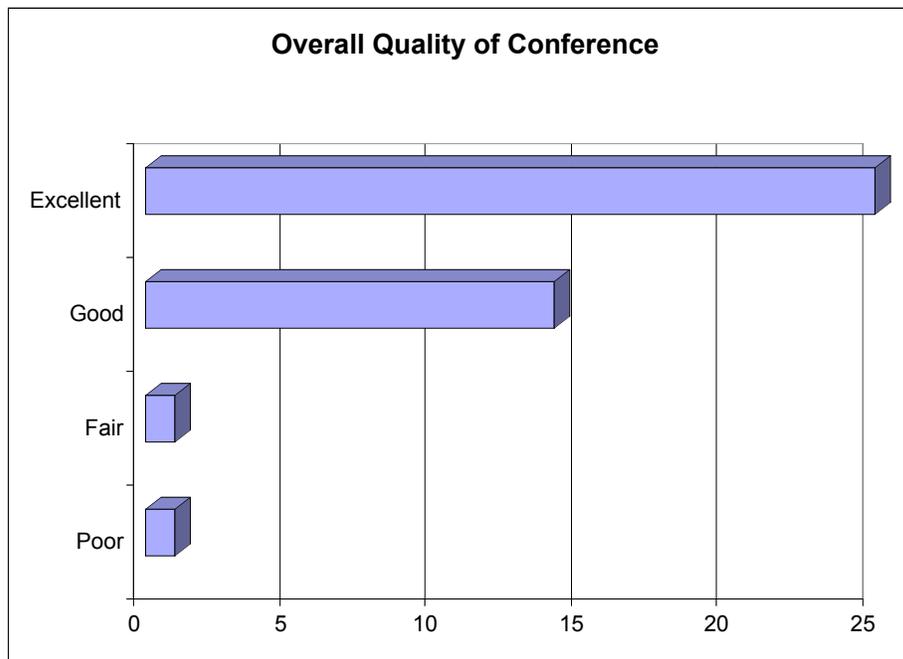
In the month of February, following the KATESOL/BE Conference, there were 1,310 hits on the pages and files at the KATESOL materials archive, accessing handouts and PowerPoints from the 30 percent of presenters who complied with repeated requests to share their items. During that month of February, 850,000 kilobytes of data were downloaded from the materials folder. In March, there were 66 hits and 250,000 kilobytes of data downloaded.

Future events will hopefully incorporate more of a Web-based approach to handouts, reducing paper use to a bare minimum. With better compliance from presenters, materials could also be collected ahead of time and burned to CD-ROM or DVD to include in conference packets for the greater convenience of participants.



3.02 / 51 respondents

An average rating exceeding 3.0, “good,” on whether the KATESOL Conference in Manhattan met the expectations of participants is a result which should hearten the many people at K-State and on the KATESOL planning committee who played such vital roles in the success of this statewide, and regional, event.



2.96 / 49 respondents

It is disappointing that survey respondents collectively gave the overall quality of the KATESOL/BE Conference a rating below 3.0.

A final question on the KATESOL survey asked participants to “Please list any topics and/or speakers you would like KATESOL/BE to consider for future conferences.” The following are most of the answers that were given.

More with helpful hands-on to use in the high school classroom for content areas.

More political action info.

Tiffany Powell (knowledgeable, enthusiastic, interaction w/ audience)

Topics on Mexican and/or foreign education and awareness.

As an adult educator of “low level immigrants” I would like to see more in this area.

Dr. Baskerville perhaps could address a general session some time! He brings a “homespun” direction to the trials and tribulations of modern education.

Time for the attendees to network either through longer break times or earlier ending times.

Blaine Ray, Lily Wong Fillmore, Stephen Krashen

More SPED/ESL

More strategies/activities/lessons I can actually USE in my classroom.

Brain research, gifted.

Also include other languages besides Spanish.

Magnet schools—how to start them (ex. To make a language magnet school).

Methods for Bilingual Ed or a session that would bring together the staff of all of the Kansas bilingual programs and promote networking amongst us.

More information about the KATESOL/BE 2006 Conference program is online at www.katesol.org/spring2006 . The online materials archive will soon be taken down, but is now at www.katesol.org/spring2006/materials . The archive includes pdf files of the KATESOL Conference program book as well as an article published in the K-State Collegian, the student newspaper at Kansas State University.

This report on the KATESOL Conference, with data analysis from the exit survey, was compiled by Robert Bruce Scott, May 10, 2006.

Appendix A: Affiliations of KATESOL 2006 Registered Participants

ACCD Intercultural Programs
Adult Education Center, KAW Area Technical School
Allen County Community College
Andover USD 385
Anthony-Harper USD 361
Arkansas City USD 470
Arrow Springs Public Schools (Oklahoma)
Asian Affairs Center, University of Missouri
Auburn-Washburn USD 437
Avila University
Baldwin USD 348
Blue Valley USD 229
Buhler USD 313
Chanute USD 413
Cimarron High School
Clay Center USD 379
Cowley County Community College
Cross Cultural Consulting
DeSoto USD 232
Dodge City USD 443
Donnelly College
El Centro (KC, KS)
Elkhart USD 218
Emporia State University
Emporia USD 253
Fort Hays State University
Fort Scott Community College
Fredonia USD 484
Garden City USD 457
Geary County USD 475
Golden Plains USD 316
Goodland USD 352
Great Bend USD 428
Greenbush Southeast Kansas Educational Service Ctr.
Hankuk Univeristy of Foreign Studies
Haysville USD 261
Hesston USD 460
Kansas City Kansas USD 500
Kansas City, Missouri, Public Schools
Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs
Commission
Kansas State Department of Education (Topeka)
Kansas State University
Kauffman Scholars, Inc.
Lansing USD 469
Lawrence USD 497
Lewis USD 502
Liberal USD 480

Linwood USD 458
Loess Hills Area Education Agency 13
LULAC National Educational Service Center
Maize USD266
Manhattan USD 383
McCook Public Schools
McPherson College
McPherson USD 418
Meade USD 259
Memphis City Schools
Montezuma USD 371
Newton USD 373
Nickerson High School
Olathe USD 233
Ottawa USD 290
Pittsburg State University
Reading Public Schools (Pennsylvania)
Regis University
Remington USD 206
Rocky Mountain SER Head Start
Salina USD 305
Seaman High School
Shawnee Mission USD 512
South Brown County USD 430
Spring Hill USD 230
Sterling College
Thomas More Prep-Marian (Hays)
Topeka USD 501
Turner USD 202
University of Arizona
University of Colorado
University of Kansas
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of New Mexico
USD 101 (Colorado)
Washburn University
Wichita Area Technical College
Wichita USD 259
Winfield USD 465
Woodlawn United Methodist Church