



#DARtogetherwe

2021 Annual Staff Retreat

Desired outcome

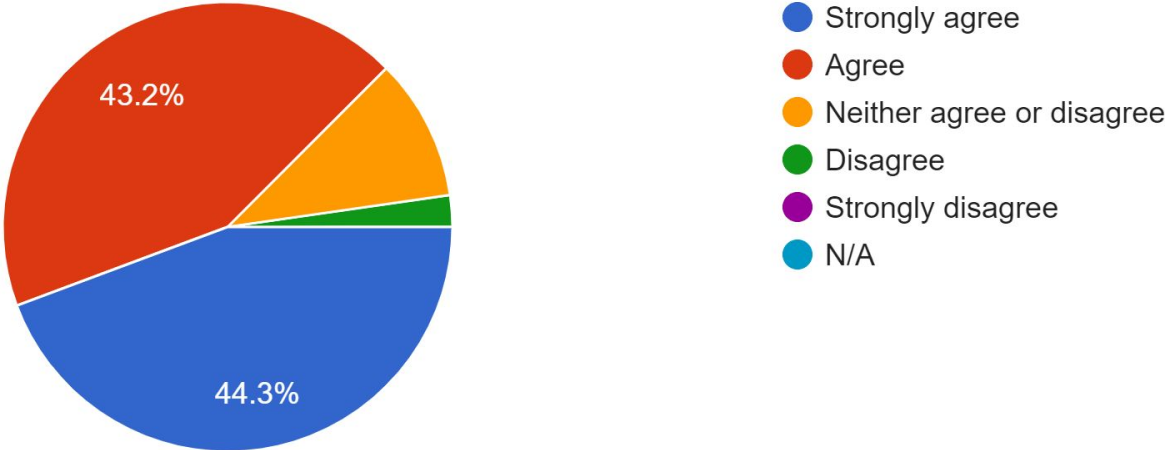
To provide the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and our mission of serving the university, learn tactics and tools to help us settle into our new working environment and understand the key goals of DAR as we prepare for our next comprehensive campaign.

Components that must be included

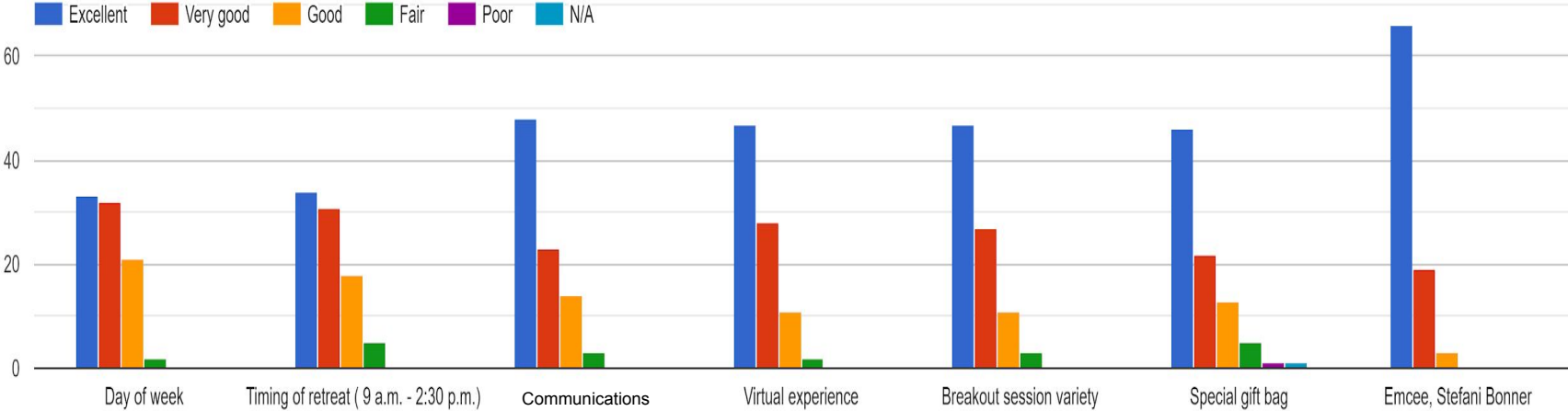
- Hybrid/Virtual
- [Interactive](#)
- Variety of speakers and topics
- Different types of activities for different personality types
- Inspiring content
- Opportunities to connect
- A special touch
- Make it Real celebration

The retreat met the intended objective to provide the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and our mission of serving the university, learn ta...to help us settle into our new working environment.

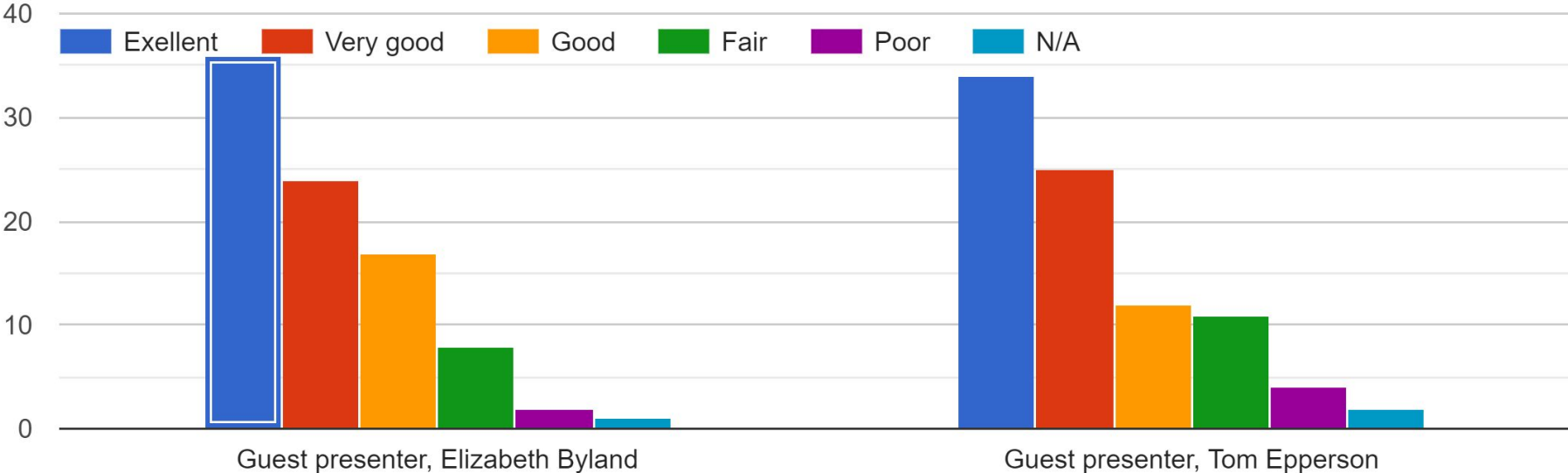
88 responses



Please rate the following components of the retreat:



Please rate the following sessions:



What DAR liked the most...

Talking to folks I have not seen in nearly 2 years

Made me stop and think about my purpose/values and what really makes me do what I do...

That you could pick and choose your journey

The tie in to our core values was very well done...

Such a pleasant surprise for a virtual event - most engaging and entertaining I've had in 1.5 years of this

Management of the event, content, breakout rooms

Breakout sessions

How interactive it was

Breakout session conversations, they need to continue

Being able to learn and share in small groups

A few final thoughts...

Connecting with your coworkers or teammates doesn't necessarily mean reflecting on corporate values. Sometimes we connect better over water cooler talk, the tv shows, we watch or books we read, experiences while traveling or with our kids. Being able to chat about things outside of work builds a better bond than only talking about fundraising.

The goodie bags were so thoughtful and DAR was kind to give many options to obtain one. I just want to say a heartfelt thank you. I felt more connected and motivated by this one retreat than I have in my department in 2.5 years- thank you for letting me be a part of something positive again; to remind me of "why" we do the work we do regardless of being in the "basement" so to speak.

pet pics on padlet were excellent :)

Just wanted to say that I really appreciated the small break out rooms during the afternoon talk. Everyone had a chance to talk and timing was just right! Thank you to all the hard work and effort to bring us all together!

You guys are on a roll! two awesome retreats in a row

Julia O Ayscue + 24 · 5d

2021 DAR Retreat
#TogetherWe

Lynn Meyer 6d Edit

The next generation!



☆ Rate

Add comment

Anonymous 6d

Thank You

A King Louie Production

VCU Development and Alumni Relations

Thanks to all who joined the King Louie Production of Celebrating Success!! Let's celebrate each other!! Lettuce Turnip the Beat!!!!

☆ Rate

Add comment

Anonymous 6d

Birds eye view




Open window weather and bird watching 🐦👀

☆☆☆☆ (1)

Add comment

Anonymous 6d

Senior Associate Director of Naps and Nip



Nate

☆☆☆☆ (4) Rate

Stefani Bonner 6d
What's the cutie's name?!

Anonymous 6d
Sweet girl Murphy

Add comment

Elizabeth Bass 6d



Thank you for being with us in our session on mentoring!
- Samantha & Elizabeth

☆ Rate

Add comment

James Wasilewski 6d

You're Great: Here's Why reminder



Obligations are in our lives - big to small. Remember to make time for yourself, reflect on how incredible you are and the value you add to everything you do!

☆ Rate

Add comment

Anonymous 6d

Apollo (front) and Artemis (background) having just found a bug



Anonymous 6d

If I fits I sits



"Hat or cat bed?" - Leo (fur baby)

Anonymous 6d

Some great books & resources on making the major gift ask

Resources:

- Asking: A 28-Admire Guide to Everything Board Members, Volunteers, and Staff Must Know to Secure the Gift - Sarah Franke
- Wealth in Families: Charles Galter
- At the Forefront
- Opening the Door to Major Gifts: John Greenberg
- Major Gifts Fundraising for Small Donor: Amy J. Greenstein
- Take the Fear out of Asking for Major Gifts: James A. Donovan
- Leading with Questions: How Leaders Find the Right Solutions by Knowing What to Ask: Michael Margolis

Melanie Irvin 6d

Remember you are a superhero!

☆☆☆☆ (1) Rate

James Wasilewski 6d
Thank you for attending the session. You are an outstanding person Melanie!

Add comment

Anonymous 6d



"Yeeshaw" - Dexter

☆ Rate

Anonymous 6d

Attitudes of Gratitude

Thank you for all that attend this session. I hope you were able to take something away from it. I am here as resource. mttiller@vcu.edu
Robinette Tiller

☆ Rate



In good hands with alum Ace Callwood in the production chair.

☆ Rate 1

James Wasilewski 5mo
Ace!

Add comment

Lauren Leavy 5mo
Meet Robert Chisley



Beautiful day for tech rehearsal at canvas studios RVA!

☆☆☆☆ (1) Rate 0

Add comment

Julia O Ayscue 5mo
Prepped and ready! Did you love your gift?



☆☆☆☆ (4) Rate 6

Shannon Gravitt 5mo
Cake pops yum!!

Anonymous 5mo
CAKE POPS!?!?!?

Brelyn Powell 5mo
This writer LOVES a good notebook. Thanks a million, retreat team!!

Chester fresh out of hair & makeup.

☆☆☆☆ (4) Rate 4

Lauren Leavy 5mo
My sweet babe! Thank you to Canvas for letting me bring him!

Anonymous 5mo
Chester is there!!! So cool!

Elizabeth Bass 5mo
Sweet Chester!

Amy Gray Beck 5mo
<3 <3

Add comment

Lauren Leavy 5mo
Meet Matt Rowe



Video • 00:43

Matt Rowe
University Development Engagement Officer with Development and Alumni Relations

☆☆☆☆ (3) Rate 10

Anonymous 5mo
Welcome Matt!

Rob Reid 5mo
Welcome aboard, Matt! Good to hear about your interest in gardening. We recently started but have a lot to learn.

Laura Foy 5mo
Welcome, Matt!

Remove Approve

Anonymous 5mo



Video • 01:06

20210929J10010

KingP welcoming PPP (Pandemic Philanthropic Professionals) to DAR.

☆☆☆☆ (10) Rate 4

Brelyn Powell 5mo
Miss you, King!!

Corey Humphrey 5mo
High five and sanitize

Shannon Gravitt 5mo
He's the best we are lucky to have him!

Samantha Wheeler Marrs 5mo
King I love this video!

Add comment

You're Great! Here's Why Session (9/30 @ 11:15 am)

SOMETIMES YOU FORGET YOU'RE AWESOME SO THIS IS YOUR REMINDER



with James Wasilewski, MBA, CFRE CAI-SP (CSZ)

Looking forward to helping people realize how amazing they truly are!

☆☆☆☆ (6) 0

Add comment

Lauren Leavy 5mo
Meet Talees Owens



Video • 00:29

Talees Owens Intro - Talees Owens

Development Specialist for the School of Nursing

☆☆☆☆ (3) Rate 5

Shannon Gravitt 5mo
Welcome Talees!

Anonymous 5mo
Where is this?
Add comment

Anonymous 5mo
StrengthsFinder



Leslee R Gensinger -- Facilitator

I am excited to see my DARlings, old and new, tomorrow morning!

☆☆☆☆ (2) Rate 1

Lauren Leavy 5mo
We miss you Leslee! Glad to have you back today!

Add comment

Lauren Leavy 5mo
Meet Stevan Dozier



Video • 00:36

Stevan Dozier Video Introduction

Director of Development and Alumni Engagement with the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs



Stefani is all smiles running through scripts

☆ Rate 6

Anonymous 5mo
Yeh Stefani!

Elizabeth Bass 5mo
Stefani is going to rock this emcee gig!! So proud!

Anonymous 5mo
Woohoo!!! Hostess with the MOSTESST - Amy

Stefani Bonner 5mo
Thanks everyone! Hope you all are enjoying so far!

Samantha Wheeler Marrs 5mo
THANK YOU so much for leading us today!

Anonymous 5mo
Great job, Stefani!

Add comment

Lauren Leavy 5mo
You almost made it to October 2021!



Video • 00:05

5ABE6A38-8814-48FB-A325-CA1163D65B44 (1)

See more at <https://padlet.com/joayscue/dx54dwmhgq4si0lc> & <https://vimeo.com/619329900/a7ea1e6008>