**Network Connectivity**

**What do SFA network relationships look like?**

- **Communication**
  - Four lead festivals are centrally connected.
  - Each lead festival connects annually with 70% of member festivals.
  - Member festivals connect and communicate freely as needed.

- **Networking at IPSEC meetings**
  - Opportunity to strengthen network relations.
  - 98% percent plan to follow up with someone new they met to share information or resources.

- **New members**
  - Festivals connect with SFA around the time of their 1st festival.

- **Festival visits spark ideas**

**Network Vibrancy**

**How healthy is the SFA network?**

- **Festival diversity**
  - 1 to 17 days.
  - Recommended for kids ages 0 to 100.
  - STEM + ARTS.
  - Festivals adapt to meet community needs and interests to draw in all audiences.

- **Strong and enduring connections**
  - I can’t overstate how much I’ve learned from other lead festivals. They’re my closest colleagues. I’m tied to them all.

- **Shared goals achieved at IPSEC**
  - Strengthened connections, both new and old. 94% percent of attendees reported “quite a bit” or “a great deal”.
  - Increased sense of belonging and recognition from the field. 86% percent of attendees reported “quite a bit” or “a great deal”.
  - Ideas exchanged and resources shared. 80% percent of attendees reported “quite a bit” or “a great deal”.
What outcomes and impacts has the SFA network achieved?

**NETWORK GROWTH**
- 46 festivals (2015)
- 17 festivals (2012)
- 170% percent growth in membership
- 31 states

**DEVELOPING CONNECTIONS**
- IPSEC is essential for developing in-person relationships
- A few member relationships go a long way
- Everyone should have some sort of personal connection with at least a couple other SFA members. That is most important.

**NETWORK SUSTAINABILITY**
1. The website provides...
   - Toolkits
   - Inspiration for new ideas, and not having to reinvent the wheel
2. SFA council provides...
   - Rotating leadership positions
3. IPSEC provides...
   - A supportive network of such a collaborative and generous group of like-minded individuals... the understanding that in sharing our experiences and resources, we all succeed in our common goals.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONGOING SUSTAINABILITY**
- National SFA sponsor
- Be patient
- Transparent communication
- Marketplace venue for shared resources
- Membership dues
- Set and keep regular meetings
- Website as a collaborative platform
- Further integration of art and science
- Uphold systems developed for sustainability
- Varied modes and methods of communication

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For more info, please see http://sciencefestivals.org/