TTI Day 2009 Survey Results

What did you like best about the building activity?

1. It was fun and a great way to interact with other staff
2. The chance to interact with different people in a more "relaxed" way.
3. Wasn't able to attend, but from what I heard and the pics that I saw, it looked like a lot of fun!
4. The socialization
5. That we had a great time!! There was a lot of laughing and friendly competitiveness. We got to meet folks we don't normally have a chance to work with. It was a blast!!
6. best part of the day
7. Interacting with different TTI staff and engineers. I work at Wells Fargo, so I rarely get to see people I talk to every day.
8. It was fun and let me get to know my teammates.
9. The word was that the groups were randomly assigned, but it appeard that many of the upper management folks ended up in the same group.
10. meeting & interacting with other people
11. Did not care for the activity. While there was interaction it was not the kind that fostered learning about the other individuals, where they worked, what they did, etc.
12. meeting and working with people from other departments that you do not see often.
13. It allowed different groups of people to interact and kind of get to know each other a little bit better.
14. Team work - Display of creativity - Fun
15. It was fun and interactive. Gave me a chance to work with others from the institute.
16. game
17. Meeting new people.
18. fun
19. Group involvement
20. I did not care for the building activity. While I understand the importance of interaction among co-workers, the exercise was, in my opinion, not an effective use of time nor was it appropriate for anything other than filler.
21. opportunity to meet and work with folks I normally don't interact with - loved to see the projects that all the teams made - very very interesting.
22. It was fun, and it was a good opportunity to get out of our usual groups and meet other people at TTI.
23. Meeting new people and putting faces with names.
24. Meeting some TTI people that I've never met before.
25. It was fun. Allowed people to meet others and be creative. Good job mixing up the people.
26. Was a good team building exercise.
27. It allowed me to meet some people I didn't know.
28. I did not like the building activity
29. The chance to meet everyone from TTI and see all the other departments.
30. Gave me a chance to work with people from other offices.
31. creativity involved
32. I don't understand what this question is asking.
33. The interaction between researchers, support staff, and students.
34. I enjoyed interacting with people outside of my department. It is often that we hear the name of someone - but never really get an opportunity to interact with them.
35. Meeting other TTI co-workers
36. Making something.
37. Interaction with fellow TTIers
38. PUT different folks together.
39. Did not attend
40. Getting to know people from other groups
41. Interaction with other TTIites whom I never knew.
42. The best thing about the building activity was being able to work through a problem with old coworkers and new coworkers that provided a challenging dynamic towards a solution.
43. I met people from other areas of TTI (most important) and I got to see how creative and different all the groups were.
44. I did not attend TTI Day
45. It was fun and challenging.
46. Opportunity to interact with other TTI employees we don't normally encounter. It was universally dreaded before it began, and (almost) universally enjoyed once it got underway.
47. creativity
48. It got people talking to each other that did not know each other before.
49. It was fun
50. Comraderie among folks. High level of enthusiasm from the non-technical employees.
51. get up and move around, be creative
52. I have very little creative ability, so I wasn't much help.
53. Getting to know others in TTI.
54. meeting people I don't normally see
55. meet other people
56. It served as a good team building activity.
57. Met new people
58. It was a hoot! I was concerned that people wouldn't do it but every group dove right in and a good time was had by all.
59. Did not participate
60. The Sport drinks. Just kidding, the ease of the registration and signing in was great. I really liked the duped videos with all of our talented TTI dancers
61. This is the first activity that people actually participated and enjoyed.
62. Meeting and interacting with people I have never met.
63. seeing new faces
64. involvement with others on a fun level
65. I did not like anything about the building activity. Seemed to be a waste of time.
66. It was good, but cold.
67. It was fun
68. meeting people from different departments
69. It was OK. I would have liked a more conversational activity to get to know people. Most of the group I had were quiet and un-engaging.
70. I really enjoyed the mixture of people on the teams. The fact that not everyone had the same items to work with and the creativity that went into the projects. I really think most people had a lot of fun doing it.
71. some of the designs were pretty creative, ours was not....
72. I was able to meet people I had never met before.
73. Getting to know individuals that I otherwise might not have been able to spend casual time with.
74. Team work.
75. I didn't attend
76. I thought it was a fun group activity-lots of interaction.
77. Did not participate.
78. an icebraker is good but this particular activity was geared to more the reserchers level than the staff.
79. Good chance to work with others. Not everybody was relaxed enough to actually participate but they at least got to laugh at those who did.
80. meeting new people from TTI and visiting with people that I knew but hadn't visited with in a while.
81. Visiting with collegues in a fun social environment
82. That was definitely not my favorite activity. Three women in our group built the project and the rest of the team stood around talking. The leader of the group showed up when we were almost done. I would have preferred hearing a good speaker.

**Regarding the building activity, what could we do better next time?**

1. Think it worked fine.
2. Should judge and have awards
3. More consistent resources
4. Do not have the building activity.
it was great, although not everyone on our team participated - but my office is the same way
Prompt all of the people to introduce themselves to the others in their group, and give them a few minutes to do
so before telling them about the assignment.
Something other than building a futuristic transportation model.
Maybe allow more time
Nothing - it went well.
nothing
better prize for best effort
Team member introductions especially for new TTI staff who do not really know other TTI staff outside their
group.
Make the teams interact more with other teams. I'm not sure how to do it but maybe make it like a scavenger
hunt where each person have some items and everyone has to go around and ask if that person has that item.
Judge the buildings and have a prize for the winning team. :)
Nothing......it was neat
I personally did not enjoy the building activity, so I would not particularly want to participate.
Have outdoor activities.
Good job; keep it as a fun activity that involves input from the group.
More supplies and may be a central pool that we send reps to get supplies.
I didn't attend
I felt disappointed that nothing was ever done with the projects-no judging activity-prize for the best one-
nothing. It left me rather flat. I would not do again because of that.
Waste of time.
i think you should have judged the individual efforts and given a token prize to the top two.
I understand the point of the icebreaker exercise (the project), however, I feel that it may have been a bit
juvenile for my taste.
Ask the employees for submitting their ideas before the event including the things needed. Select the best ideas
and provide the things needed to do it.
an award, or a rep from each group standing up and explaining what they built
more participation
It was like a movie without ending. After building the artifact there was no follow up. Maybe a presentation so
other can see what each did. Maybe a prize for the most creative.
Have them judged
The activity groups were probably too large to get participation from everyone.
Nothing I can think of.
Maybe make the groups smaller so everyone might get a chance to participate.
The activity was great! but then nothing came of it. After working on it everyone was hyped up only to have it
fall by the wayside.
Follow same concept, just do different materials, different goal, to mix it up.
Add more pieces to use.
It had no ending (voting on line three months later hardly counts!) We built the model, little more was said of
them, and at the end of the day the models were thrown into the trash.
too many people per group. Not many actually participated in the activity
I think it was pretty good.
Make it more related to what we do now and introduce some level of competitiveness among teams
more supplies?
Have some feedback on the project. We were real excited and no one came by to look at it or comment.
every person present needs to have a role. maybe the leader brings those who aren't participating into the
planning/discussion.
not sure
Not have a building activity.
Make it warmer
Awards for most creative, etc
allow more time
a little bit more time
I know it's hard to come up with something for 200-300 people, but I really don't know of any other activities that could be done as a group.

Create an activity that seems less contrived and more meaningful

Smaller groups, more time to interact

Possibly have multiple activities. Change groups so that we get to mingle with more folks

too many supplies offered. Limit the number of supplies available. Seems wasteful.

judge it. it sort of went nowhere, in that we had no incentive to keep to our charge.

Honestly, not much.

find a different activity?

make everyone introduce themselves in the group, in my group people seemed hesitant to start interacting

Possibly remind people to go around and introduce themselves with descriptions (i.e., what program, etc.)

I'm not sure. A less objective-centric activity that is more focused on social facilitation may serve the purpose better, but I'm drawing a blank on specific examples.

show the results, mention it some time during the day

Leave this activity out!!!

We need better, more interesting construction materials.

Pipe cleaners.

Better explained.

Have the voting on site at the event!

Do you have any suggestions for other icebreaker activities?

1. With group as large as we have - it is hard to come up with good ideas. one suggestion - have tables do "self introductions." Give them 10 minutes to talk and have one person introduce all.

2. No

3. It's going to be tough to top this one, given that you're dealing with a room full of engineers.

4. No

5. for a group this big ideas the are limited - this was a great idea and furture TTI Day's could have the same type thing - just change up the theme. you might have more participation since we've done this now...

6. Unfortunately no.

7. Maybe we could try one where we have to build a new type of structure and "crash test" it ala Riverside....just scale it down to inside expo center, use remote control car, etc.

8. I heard that some people really, really do not like the icebreaker activities. Those that are very introverted have a very hard time with them. I'm not sure how to approach that problem, but it is a concern that should be considered during planning the event.

9. karaoke???

10. There is a game I have used before where everyone thinks of 3 statements about themselves, 2 of which are true and 1 which is not, IE, "I have 21 brothers and sisters", "I was born in California", and "I am allergic to bee stings." They then tell the rest of the group all 3 statements, and the group attempts to decide which is the lie. BTW, I'm not allergic to bee stings at all.

11. Team games like shooting hoops or darts or playing on Wii . Highest score by a team wins.

12. scavenger hunt? mystery game of who done it, with employees as the "killers"

13. No.

14. no

15. marguerita machine

16. No

17. Volleyballl - horseshoes. Make it a day for employees to enjoy.

18. Sorry, I suck at suggestions

19. It would be nice to learn what other people are doing during the activity.

20. i like the building activity

21. have everyone meet 1-5 new people and write down some facts about that person.

22. no

23. no

24. Maybe try something elementary, like give one person a sentence or story and pass it around the table to see what the ending story from the last person.

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25. Not at this time.  
26. little known facts about people are usually entertaining. Can be supplied by individuals.  
27. Any group activities  
28. no at this time.  
29. No  
30. Group build projects seem to work well for this.  
31. Anything along this line should work fine.  
32. No  
33. I didn't attend  
34. We don't need ice breakers.  
35. none  
36. No.  
37. this was fun -- better than break out sessions  
38. Have everyone sit with a table where the nobody knows each other. Then one gets up and presents a fact or something about each person.  
39. I like the "mixing of attendees and table activities to "break the ice"  
40. no  
41. Wheel of Fortune  
42. Take a puzzle that's been put together; break it up into a certain number of numbered sections. Then give so many pieces to everyone in their name tag holder as they register. Then everyone in each section has to get together and put all their pieces together to make their part of the puzzle. Place a time limit on it. They choose one person from each section to be the one that goes and reviews everyone else's part of the puzzle (with a time limit of 1-minute). Then they get two minutes to try and connect their part of the puzzle to someone else's and so on and so on. Just a thought. Actually you could take a TTI picture that's been turned into a puzzle to make it interesting.  
43. Keep the building activity, but add at least 1 other icebreaker activity. Ideas include: - add different color dots to people's name tags. have them switch tables to the next color on their name tag later in the day. try to randomize the colors, OR, number the tables and assign the tags by number. - everyone should wear a name tag with the first name writ LARGE- try to do SOMETHING to get everyone involved...it was hard to see the tables of folks who all knew each other, it was just like high school.  
44. Leave out and get on with the day.  
45. No  
46. No -- but I think it would have been good to have people stay in those groups for the day since everyone gravitated back to their "normal" group  
47. No.  
48. Picnic type relay games.  

**What did you like best about Dennis Christiansen's presentation?**  
1. Good information - The PowerPoint was well done and great presentation. Message was clear.  
2. Information on what TTI is doing and where we're going  
3. I enjoyed hearing what he expected for the future of TTI and the state of the current affairs.  
4. Offered a brief, snapshot overview of agency performance and goals.  
5. I honestly can't remember much about it unfortunatley.  
6. That it was lighthearted and with a sense of humor.  
7. I liked the positive message and him acknowledging the hard work of TTI researchers and staff.  
8. It was short and to the point.  
9. brevity  
10. The presentation was great...one of the best we have had so far. It was light hearted, but direct at the same time. I like the whole thing.  
11. Good  
12. the slide and presentation in it self was good  
13. I dont remember  
14. Good as always.  
15. informative
16. Very informative. His presentation was well done, he discussed where we've been, where we're headed, and discussed some of the research areas we are pursuing. He was to the point and didn't drag it on for 45 minutes or so.

17. Very informative, as usual

18. I like his down-to-earth approach.

19. Well organized, new information, entertaining.

20. As usual

21. The slideshow and that it was entertaining as well as informative.

22. when he talked about slides he didn't make

23. I really don't remember it, sorry.

24. He is frank about the state of the agency and he is supportive of our workforce.

25. I don't remember. It's been too long.

26. I didn't attend

27. The slide show added to the presentation. Liked it better than previous years.

28. all of it

29. Informative

30. Informative and short.

31. I can't remember now

32. It has been so long since TTI Day that I really don't remember what he said well enough to answer this question.

33. good graphics. nice use of humor.

34. Did not attend TTI Day

35. update of status of TTI.

36. Overall status of the agency and the direction we are moving.

37. i missed it.

38. He was motivational and spoke kindly of the efforts of TTI staff and researchers.

39. He's just a good speaker period .... keeps a focus and keeps it moving.


41. the facts, the state of TTI

42. Well done.

43. the positive spin

44. The animation

45. What's not to like? It's straight forward and brief.

46. Optimistic and encouraging about TTI's future

47. informative, hearing about the new pavement that cuts down on the back splash when it rains.

48. not too long

49. The slideshow with the institutes achievements. I was very impressed with some of the research.

50. brief overview of TTI's current top projects

51. Good update on the state of the institute

52. Update on "big picture" at TTI.

53. Dennis is always very clear in communicating expectations

54. That he has a plan for our future. That we are not to rest on our laurels.

Are there any ideas that he mentioned that you would like for him to expand upon?

1. HOW is the Strategic Plan to be implemented?? HOW will it affect me?? What is my role in it??

2. Do not recall.

3. Dennis has been doing a great job of relating the state of affairs to employees since he became the Agency Director.

4. no

5. I can't remember now

6. No.

7. Not that I can think of now.

8. Maybe, but I can't remember.

9. No

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10. He didn't mention it but it would be nice if he could send a message of collaboration across the agency. We should be encouraged to work together and with others. For example, researchers should be ENCOURAGED to working with other researchers in other divisions across TTI lines and with other researchers and faculty within and outside of TAMUS instead of having their hands "slapped" for honing in on others territory. The only way that we can grow is to reach out, as far out as possible.

11. Diversifying research portfolios. Opportunities for research outside Texas.

12. What we will do with the results of all the various committees and task forces working right now. Sometimes it seems that the various plans and reports are never heard from again.

13. No
14. The future of TTI as a whole
15. I dont remember
17. None
18. No
19. uh, guess not
20. No
21. No.
22. I would not mind hearing more about details from the legislature that impact TTI.
23. I think his presentations have been appropriate in length and tone.
24. None
25. I think the way he has captured what TTI has done and where we are going to great. Keep that in the presentation.
27. I didn't attend
28. no
29. naw
30. last year, he spoke about the high-speed rail that TTI was working on, calling it the "greatest piece of intellectual property to be produced by the A&M System." I would've liked a follow-up this year. Is it dead? Going forward?
31. No

What did you like best about the meals and beverages?

1. Good.
2. Did not care for the lunch.
3. Lunch was great. Having two different options was a wonderful luxury.
4. I liked that there was variety and no barbecue
5. Everything was okay.
6. Selection was good.
7. Two choices for lunch! The food was amazing!
8. The food and beverages were perfect.
9. Like that there was a choice. Salad was good.
10. The idea that you had choices instead just chicken or beef...
11. It's good to experiment with the meals, but sometimes it just doesn't work out. don't try to cut corners too much that you lose in the quality of the meal. Go with a known caterer with a good reputation. You will never please everyone, but at least let them complain that they're miserable because there was so much good food that they overstuffed. Instead of eating because they were hungry and hoping that maybe the other food was better.
12. good food!
13. The mexican good wasn't so hot but the other was ok. I wasn't impressed with any of it at all. I did like the breakfast stuff though.
14. The food was mediocre, but then it is difficult to please the number and variety of people being served. Others may feel differently.
15. I think the food was great.
16. Liked the availability of diet cokes and water every time I looked for one.
17. good varity
18. Meals were the best we had. Use them again if possible.
19. plentiful
20. Best meals in the three years I have been at TTI!
21. having a choice of mex or italian was nice.
22. I liked the beverages. Hated the food. Deserts were ok though.
23. I liked having the choice between two types of meals. The mexican portion was slow getting out at first...I wouldn't say it was the best meal we have ever had, but it surely wasn't the worst. The energy drinks were a plus. On the whole this group did a great job trying to please even the pickiest of eaters.
24. Go back to BBQ, didn't like the meal!
25. It was okay
26. all food was great!
27. The variety was nice.
28. options
29. The mexican food was poor, but I understand the italian was a little better. The beverages were adequate and plentiful.
30. Great food, good selection
31. All good
32. Variety/choice
33. Good selection of food.
34. it was different, not the usual rubber chicken. i liked having two serving areas.
35. I liked the option for the lunch meal, but I would prefer just having one meal theme choice that includes healthy alternatives, such as chicken, turkey, or vegetarian. The vegetarian quesidillas were gross. I liked the fruit and cheese trays in the morning, but you needed more fruit and vegetables and less cheese.
36. Food was very good this year. beverage selection was equally good.
37. i liked that things were spread out and there were options - nice for a big group to have options
38. I liked having two choices (something for everyone), and I liked having coffee and good doughnuts available in the morning.
39. The Italian food was tasty.
40. Nice to have a selection to choose from. And it was tasty.
41. I loved that there were choices. The food was very good.
42. there was plenty to drink and a good variety. what I had of the food was pretty good
43. It was nice to have two meal choices.
44. Choices.
45. Liked having a choice.
46. I didn't attend
47. You can have more than one option but seems like both sides should be the same. The food was ok. Not as good as previous years.
48. meals were good
49. Great choices - best food I've ever had at a TTI Day
50. Meal was very good
51. There was a great variety of everything, and it was all great.
52. It was probably the best one so far.
53. it was something new
54. I liked the fact that we had options to choose from and being set-up in two locations made the lines move faster. I also like the meal itself. It was a change.
55. good food
56. very good quality and amount, diverse choices, attractive staff.
57. The food was great.
58. good food
59. It was nice to have a choice and beverages out and cold.
60. There were two choices.
61. Good selection.
62. Good variety. The veggie quesadillas didn't go over well.
63. The food was very good this year. Probably the best of the 5 or so TTI Days I've been to.
64. That there was a choice between two meals.
65. Actually nothing -- this was probably the worst quality food ever at any TTI Day activities.
66. I liked having two different main entree choices.
67. It was mediocre, nothing memorable.
68. I like that the drinks were easily accessible throughout the program. The open coolers were a good idea.
69. The setup. The concept and presentation very good. Food not so good.
70. Choice.
71. The fact that there were 4 food lines. They went really fast so we could eat leisurely. The food was super TASTY. The best yet.
72. The variety, even for vegetarians

Regarding the meals and beverages, what could we do better next time?
1. Nothing. It was GREAT!
2. I thought the food was great.
4. I didn't attend
5. don't run out of food.
6. Use another restaurant.
7. Both meals were too spicy for some people.
8. too many donuts. maybe breakfast tacos next time.
9. While the food was okay the set up was very cramped and not conducive to sampling food from both tables.
10. breakfast and lunch
11. Maybe have 3 different food stations so the lines will not be so long.
12. maybe add one more buffet table to avoid over-crowding. make sure there's enough food or food easily replenished.
13. The caterer needs to be better prepared. The veggie quesadillas didn't go over well and they weren't ready for the demand for other items.
14. beer?
15. Go back to basic food - meat and vegetables.
16. Breakfast tacos would be awesome, i.e. potato & egg, sausage & egg, bacon & egg. More coffee!!
17. food was very good, had a little of everything.
18. I thought it was good this time. Keep the good work
19. Shorter lines. Have more (and hopefully shorter) serving lines.
20. Have creamer and sweetener for the coffee
21. I guess margaritas are out of the question? Maybe have a Starbucks corner set up for afternoon break.
22. Go with your standard meat and potatoes that usually satisfies the masses, but also go with a fully loaded salad bar, possibly including baked potatoes; that should be cheap enough and satisfy everyone.
23. The caterers need to be ready to start serving when the meal is announced.
24. How about Krispy Kreme donuts?
25. Lunch was better from J. Cody's (last year). Still, not too bad.
26. Get something a little less unusual.
27. I thought this was ok...I don't know how you can please everyone all the time.
28. wasn't that good, maybe another place
29. have more than donuts in the morning
30. just one type of meal, either Mexican, Italian etc and offer option for vegans
31. I realize some people don't care for barbeque and hamburgers and hot dogs all the time, but I also realize that the committee has to come up with a little variety in the menu. Maybe we could have roast beef, pork, or chicken some time.
32. No suggestion
33. more options for the harder to please people - fountain drinks and maybe an ice cream machine
34. Nothing. This was the best so far. Do it again!
35. Make certain the vendor replenishes the food and drinks, as they fell behind or fell short on amounts.
36. Could we ask for cheese to be on the side, so that people could add their own and therefore those that don't want it, don't have to eat around it?
37. None
38. more desserts
39. more water bottles would be nice
40. signs indicating what the food was would be good. separate lines for the different food types was not really
good if you wanted some of each.
41. mark the vegetarian stuff clearly!
42. They apparently ran out of meal food toward the end. Even when I was getting my plate, we had to wait a few
minutes for the servers to bring more out.
43. No speaker to interrupt
44. There was nothing lacking
45. They ran out of chicken and cheese enchiladas and didn't refill fast enough.
46. more meat options
47. Would appreciate if vegetarian meals were distinguished (either by placing a card in front of it or keeping non-
meat dishes towards the end of table/or on separate table and letting us know). Had tough time to figure out
which of the dishes were suitable for vegetarian diet.
48. Need to provide more food. I did not get enough to eat by the time I got through the line.
49. See the marks above.
50. No suggestion.
51. Let not try gourmet.
52. I heard one complaint that the pasta was spicy (I thought it was great).
53. Continue to make sure that there are a variety of choices for the entrees.
54. Have something with a wider appeal, more salad

**What did you like best about the guest speaker, Peter Bishop's, presentation?**

1. I thought he was good - interesting points.
2. He did provoke some thought, although he was a lot less out there than many futurists.
3. Nothing...biofuels, nanotechnology...blah blah blah. I mentally dozed off...he had nothing to say to me.
4. Nothing -- he seemed to be pushing his own personal opinion of Global Warming, which is controversial and
disputed by many respected scientists.
5. not too long
6. Didn't care for it.
7. Not good. He was boring to me. I personally think a motivational speaker would be better. It is always good to
end an activity on a high note.
8. Peter Bishop should not be invited back. His presentation was a huge disappointment.
9. His discussion and point of view regarding change was interesting.
10. It was rather boring.
11. It was very broad, and did not only pertain to engineering but to the organization as a whole.
12. Didn't seem related to TTI or TTI Day
13. Was not very motivational.
14. did not like the guest speaker. I was lost in the first 5 mins. i was counting the minutes until he was thru - that
was torture right after a good meal.
15. I was not thrilled about it.
16. This was a bit of a disappointment - he kinda mailed it in.
17. I really don't like guest speakers, and would prefer to keep the focus on TTI
18. It was totally depressing and boring.
19. Too boring!
20. it expanded from our day-to-day to at least try to look into the future
21. He was ok but he talked about himself the whole time. He got boring.
22. It was shorter than the one the year before.
23. I thought it was a great topic. The presentation was a bit abstract and too short for my taste, I would have loved
to hear more.
24. Without visuals, I really had a hard time paying attention.
25. I thought he was boring...
26. Mr. Bishop was generally just ok. I was bored after the first 10 minutes or so. You could tell that he was used
to speaking to large crowds and lost touch with such a small group. He message didn't really pertain to TTI as a
whole in my opinion. But he was ok.
27. He was okay
28. I dont remember
29. not memorable
30. I did not enjoy his presentation. It didn't seem to come off well. I don't know if it was the presenter or the material.
31. That it ended. I got the impression he really had little idea what TTI does and his attempts at predicting the future weren't much better than someone at a small dimly-lit table with a crystal ball. I couldn't believe he managed to establish a program in "future studies" and then became a professor in it. Except for being irritated that many of his premises were flawed or contrived, it was otherwise a very boring presentation, particularly just after lunch.
32. I was unimpressed with the "futurist" presentation.
33. Nothing great.
34. I had a hard time relating to the guest speaker.
35. can't remember it.
36. that he didn't use notes - that was really impressive.
37. He had some interesting thoughts and ideas.
38. Unfortunately, I didn't care much for the presentation. It was rather generic.
39. To be honest, nothing. He was boring, not at all dynamic or engaging with the audience, soft-spoken, and just not very exciting.
40. Honestly, I can't really remember the specifics of it now. So, I guess the content/presentation didn't really have much impact. I do remember him talking about the future and teamwork. I also remember enjoying his speech.
41. not as boring as some in the past
42. He made people start thinking about some future issues.
43. The subject matter was unique.
44. boring.
45. Insightful.
46. Not to thrilled about the guest speakers presentation.
47. didn't really like him; he was preaching to the choir
48. I did not like his presentation. I felt it was not well informed.
49. Nothing.
50. I didn't attend
51. the worst speaker ever
52. Nothing. The worse speaker yet.
53. the speaker had too much time in the presentation
54. Sorry - he was hard to follow
55. I thought the speaker was ineffective. He spoke like he was lecturing a college class. If you were an engineer, you were probably insulted by his simplistic approach. If you were not an engineer, it was just a very dry speech.
56. Nothing.
57. I can't remember now
58. The speaker was interesting
59. My mom always told me if you did not have anything nice to say, do not say anything at all.
60. nothing
61. Did not have an idea what he was talking about.
62. Do not recall.
63. Did not enjoy--would enjoy a motivational speaker

Do you have suggestions of possible guest speakers for next year?

1. That is hard to answer. We have two divisions within us: researchers vs. everyone else. The researchers want a technical speaker, everyone else wants a "feel good" speaker. Do we even need to have one at all??? Why can't we spend that time together to doing something...maybe working on one aspect of the Strategic Plan???
2. No
3. We need someone to speak on collaboration, teambuilding & leadership.
4. why have a guest speaker? most of them are expensive and the ones who don't charge aren't worth it.
5. can't think of any
6. My favorite was the former CIA agent. "Daddy, why do you jump out of moving cars?"
7. see above
8. Dr. Michael Johnson is a humorist, international speaker, former professional rodeo cowboy, and an award-winning author. He was named the 2005 Oklahoma Author of the Year by the Oklahoma Reading Association. His book, Cowboys and Angels, was named Best Nonfiction Book of 2002 by the Oklahoma Writers' Federation. Healing Shine Spiritual Assignment, is the 2007 Winner of the Western Writers of America Golden Spur award, and his nationally syndicated column, Throwing My Loop, is read by thousands each month.

9. Kay Bailey Hutchinson, someone in the Nasa program, possibly one of the women astronauts or the Aggie that's up there now. Red Adair, Dr. Red Duke. These would be interesting people.

10. Seems like if you had an on-going effort like the Strategic Plan, that you would use TTI Day as an opportunity to get some facilitated input on it, instead of trying to get that input 3 months later through Web participation. Some of the best input is through live discussion. Check out your initiatives and see if there is something that could be discussed actively at TTI Day.

11. First of all, spring for a working sound system. One reason Dr. Bishop's presentation was so lackluster was that he couldn't be heard. The house system in that facility is not up to the task, and it's not fair to the speaker or the audience. Historically, the two best TTI Day speakers have been former CIA agent Jim Olsen and motivational speaker Rick Rigsby (who has left Texas A&M.)

12. It is a challenge to find someone everyone would like!

13. None

14. Chancellor

15. Maybe someone with a little more spunk.

16. No

17. I don't

18. Someone like a Mark Stiles of Trinity Industries or someone a little more entertaining and doesn't need to use a lot of bulleted slides. Maybe even someone who has a good life story to tell.

19. Tough one.

20. Steve Ogden

21. Mythbusters!

22. Ditch the guest speaker. I don't think it adds anything.

23. Bob Gates

24. No

25. Not during or right after lunch, people need to be moving around after their tummy is full

26. Bob Lanier, former Houston mayor and current member of the TTI Advisory Council (I think)

27. I like a motivational, upbeat, funny speaker.

28. I know how tough it is to truly know whether a speaker is going to be interesting or not (unless someone has actually heard them before). I've been there.

29. Maybe no speaker?? Honestly, I really love funny and uplifting stories. I think we get enough of the technical and/or learning opportunities other places. So, if we did have a speaker someone like Dave South would be nice, but I have heard some don't like him. I think it is hard to find someone who appeals to everyone.

30. Bob Gates on any topic Mike Sherman on Leadership

31. Not at this time.

32. Keep the subject matter related to the mission of TTI while also finding someone who is interesting to listen to.

33. No.

34. No

35. No.

36. No

37. No speaker

38. I think the best speakers we have ever had at TTI Day were Susan Feichtner and James Olson. Everyone attending is not an engineer!

39. Motivational speakers or someone who can provide real-life experiences on whatever they talk about.

40. A university coach

41. No speaker or the CIA speaker.

42. Someone that we could actually learn something from and not someone who is just pushing their own agenda. Has any one on the "TTI Advisory Council" ever presented to the group at TTI Day?

43. No guest speaker unless they are funny, this year I was pretty bored and didn't pay attention

44. Ted Nugent

45. Someone in the transportation industry.
When it comes to participating in the TTI Day charitable event, would you rather donate time, money, goods, none of the above.

- 32 said goods
- 25 said money
- 26 said time
- 4 said none of the above

Would you be interested in participating in a charitable project periodically throughout the year?

- 57 said yes
- 31 said no

As part of TTI Day, would you like to hear presentations about the current research projects?

- 76 said yes
- 13 said no

Would you be willing to be a research presenter for your area?

- several people responded they would and their names will be passed on to next year's chair

What did you like best about TTI Day 2009?

1. All was great!
2. The ice breaker
3. To be able to see folks I am not able to interact with as much.
4. the decorations and getting to know new people.
5. nice venue
6. building activity
7. the food was really great.
8. Dennis' presentation and Mr. Bishop's presentation.
9. Getting together with my coworkers and talking, door prizes, building activity
10. Free day, interaction with other staff/researchers, seeing everyone who received an award. I would really like to see presentations of research, as I hear about them but never fully understand what it is they're working on.
11. The facility and food/refreshments were excellent.
12. Had to miss it, sorry.
13. Annual "check in" with TTI staff not seen in some time.
15. The facility and food.
16. Seeing people that I don't see regularly. Networking to get on projects. Not too many door prize give aways.
17. I didn't attend
18. I didn't. I thought it was probably one of the worst ones yet.
19. Dennis's presentation.
20. Time to visit with peers
21. The casual atmosphere
22. Lunch
23. Food and duration (short is better).
24. Moved along pretty well.
25. Building session and charitable activities
26. getting away, seeing folks i don't get to see much, meeting new ones.
27. In general, I liked it all, except the speaker.
28. Dennis' state of TTI address is always a highlight. The Expo Cntr is a nice venue.
29. Location and facilities were very good at the expo center. Good day of meeting and talking with others within the organization that are usually not around all of the time.
30. changes from previous years - it wasn't "not the same 'ole thing" XXXXXXs fresh blood helped.
31. The icebreaker activity and the food
32. Habitat for Humanity
33. Networking, as always. Having the habitat family there was very nice. Awards ceremony.
34. just the general day out of the office, meet others, etc. Jib-Jabs were great.
35. I really enjoyed the team building activities and the fact that most people approached them positively. Not only did they have fun, but they also took it seriously.
36. Winning an award! The flashlight was nice.
37. I did meet some people that I otherwise would not have met.
38. Meeting ran on schedule. Well organized.
39. food and team project
40. meeting other TTI colleagues (I'm from a urban office). Took a peek at the new building.
41. the building project was fun
42. it ran very smoothly. It mostly avoided the "hokie" skits. Let's leave humor to the professionals.
43. Met new people I would not have met otherwise; also grew closer to my co-workers
44. the Habitat presentation - I would have liked to have heard more.
45. The family from Habitat.
46. The Team building effort
47. I liked the light-hearted spoofs of the higher-ups that were shown during the lunch break. It generated interest and conversation and made the higher-ups seem more open and accessible. I like the schedule -- it allowed folks from out of town to travel to and from TTI on the same day and wasn't too exhausting.
48. Seeing people I don't get a chance to see often, and meeting people I've only dealt with through email.
49. It being in May. Easy to get to and get out. Got out early so that we can catch up on a few things.
50. Team Building activity.
51. riding over with co-workers, listening to Dennis' presentation, brainstorming what TTI would take into the future
52. I enjoyed the presentation by Dennis and also the award ceremony.
53. was on time and continuous
54. ice breaker
55. the building project
56. Presentations on the state of the institute and research activities.
57. Did not attend
58. Just getting together and putting a face with the voice. I talk to a lot of people over the phone and never know what they look like.
59. The flashlight.
60. getting to know more about TTI, I have only been at TTI for one year. Getting to know the people I work with, putting a face to a name. spending time getting to know these co-workers.
61. I can't remember now
62. the family for whom the Habitat house was built
63. There was not one thing that I liked best. I enjoyed the day.
64. It is a good time to socialize, and learn more about TTI's mission and accomplishments and the people making things happen.

What can we do better next time?
1. Each one should be different.
2. Start later - allow arrival time for those outside of B-CS area.
3. PLEASE get a better speaker!!!!!!!
4. free wi-fi
5. Great job!
6. I liked the break out sessions from past events. Less door prizes.
7. I didn't attend
8. candles for door prizes-really!
9. We learned nothing about the project going on in TTI over the past year. that is always interesting.
10. existing structure is good
11. It would be hard to top what you all did this year.
12. The speaker and the door prizes. The door prizes appeared to be an after thought. They were also mainly geared to females.
14. warmer - it's too cold.
15. Get a better speaker who does not allow his/her facts to be influenced by his/her personal/political bias. He did try real hard to hide his motivation, but it was still obvious.
16. Keep it PROFESSIONAL--no silly, off-the-wall "skits". We are not in kindergarten!
17. more fresh blood
18. Do it at the Brazos Center. It's probably cheaper, and I can get there from my house without having to go through any traffic signals.
19. You could make the presentation about next year's theme understandable. No offense to XXXXXXX, but his preview was loooong, horrible, not at all funny, borderline inflammatory, etc. I hope you don't actually use that theme next year.
20. Hmm....I am not really sure there is much honestly. It was entertaining, informative, ran smoothly and on time.
21. Meals were not appetizing. I'm not sure, but I think the "Mexican" food was vegetarian or close to it. I was left feeling very hungry.
22. Eliminate the suggestive videos -- the Chippendale dancers (an EROTIC male dancer group) has got to go! This is really sexual harrassment in two ways: (1) If you did not get the individuals' permissions to use their faces and (2) holding a captive audience to see it. The tango dancers are borderline suggestive. I know that it is all for "fun", but I don't believe we want to see the Dallas Morning News or Austin American Statesman headlines say that the Texas Transportation Institute held an agency-wide meeting where videos of employees imitating Chippendale dancers and tango dancers were shown. Always remember, "How would this look on the front page of the paper?" We had several non- TTI guests at this function, and I was embarrassed for them also. Also eliminate skits where the individuals imitate another nationality or race
23. you can't please everyone but the one thing that would be nice, do not get that speaker back!
24. don't put Lysol disinfectant at the tables as if they were napkins. That stuff is for heavy cleaning. Bring the team building activity to a proper closure. Spend less time with the awards. Particularly if there is a team with 40 people.
25. Hard to say. You guys to great job with what you have to work with.
26. Be a bit more sensitive. The Borat thing was not only not funny, but downright offensive to some.
27. Every year is going to be different and that makes it interesting. Maybe break out sessions.
28. Something similar, where everyone is equal; not researcher against support staff.
29. The awards seem very Admin-oriented, not sure if that is really the case, but it just seemed like it was. Maybe there needs to be more weighting toward the researchers while still recognizing support staff? For lifetime achievement, there also doesn't have to be just ONE award. If two folks are retiring and both achieved a lot for TTI, both should be honored. I also heard one of the group awardees say that there were people in that group who said they didn't even know what they'd worked on to win the award. He was disappointed, since he'd put a lot of extra time into that effort himself. Maybe he was wrong, but it made it sound like the Award committee, in not wanted to leave anyone out, perhaps cast too wide a net and thus minimized the efforts of those who went above and beyond.
30. vote on the building projects during TTI day, as another activity, the images on the survey dont do the items justice, and they are too far away to see anything. Announce the winners at the end of the day instead of months later
31. I would prefer a motivational speaker.
32. more opportunities to get to know others.
33. There need to be more door prizes.
34. Keep on perfecting the unperfect???
35. have more speakers
36. have better prizes
37. A more entertaining lunch speaker and more emphasis on successful research projects
38. Give serious consideration to the topic, expertise, and credibility of the speaker before agreeing to put him on the program
39. Have better food and better speaker or something different.
40. More, better door prizes, Return to the live skits (XXXXXXXXXX, etc.), Eliminate the painfully pointless Team Award "perp walk!"
41. Maybe drop the door prizes if they can't really be very good..
42. None
43. The day was somewhat disjointed. No follow through on the icebreaker activity during the day. The clip with the accent could have been considered insensitive to employees who do not have English as their first language.
44. No speaker.
45. keep the activity, NO guest speaker, I'd like to hear about current research projects
46. We need more fun while still being informed.
47. Ensure we have a top-notch speaker and leave out the ice breakers!
48. Please don't bring the beneficiary of charity to TTI Day or make them the center of attention.

Additional comments

1. Great job by all!
2. If TTI day is meant to be a day of self-congratulatory and motivational speeches, then there needs to be another designated day for social interaction and internal communication between employees. If TTI Day is supposed to be a day for social interaction, then some of the speeches/activities need to be cut (I'm looking at you, sheet of questions that we had to answer and then present). Currently, TTI Day feels more like the former than the latter, which may be intended. If it is intended, though, we employees NEED a chance to get out of the office to meet and cut up with colleagues. TTIBBQ anyone?
3. As part of the TTI Day registration, there was a section for folks to register online and provide a monetary contribution to Habitat for Humanity. Contribution/donations should not be solicited during the registration process. It may come across to people who contribute to the community outside of TTI as overly pushy and may seem as if a list is being kept of who contributed and who didn't. Many people contribute to the community in various ways and should not be pressured by their employer to do more.
4. I enjoyed the TTI day, thanks
5. Thank you to all those who worked hard at making TTI Day happen - you did a great job!
6. I thought that the Habitat thing was a little much. Having the family give a speech was a little inappropriate in my opinion.
7. Can't please everyone -- do what you can! And, I heard XXXXX "strongly encouraged" all her folks to attend. This makes for some grumbling, but on the other hand, it results in folks coming who otherwise wouldn't. Personally, I think this type of strong encouragement, reminding folks that getting together as an organization, is a good idea. Otherwise, it would just be the young and unjaded talking amongst ourselves! :-)
8. I feel that the skit at the end was very uncalled for and disrespectful to people of different cultures. Not everyone has the same sense of humor and couple that with not understanding what was being said through what was clearly a mocking of some sort of ethnic accent, it came off as being very offensive. I was very surprised at the degree of insensitivity of the entire skit. I would suggest having more common sense be used when developing a skit. Either that or not do them at all since everyone laughs at the Jib Jabs of various employees dancing. That is comedy enough.
9. The flashlights were a great idea and very practical. Last year's memory sticks were great too.
10. i didn't answer which way i'd like to donate, as i think all three are good - some people have more of one thing than another. i totally LOVED habitat and hope we can continue to do this as our charity.
11. Who won the competition?
12. the "funny" at the end was really borderline offensive, we have such a diverse group we have to be really careful and sensitive to all. more jib jabs!
13. Good job! I've been to 4 or 5 TTI Days by now, and this was the best one so far.
14. Do you think we could make th awards programs actually meaningful instead of simply being a gift for popularity. And please consider that the team awards could actually go to reseach, not to setting up meetings, running reports, and writing down a project number. 50 people getting a team award is ridiculous--if they REALLY do deserve it, then explain what the whole 2030 report is about and have a presentation on that.
15. I chose yes about the research projects. However, I would really only like to hear a brief synopsis a blurb. What it is and how it will effect change. Get me interested, but don't give me all of the scientific details.
16. While I am certain it was not the intention, the final videotaped skit was painfully racist and confusing to anyone not familiar with the film "Borat." Someone needs to review this stuff before it is displayed to the entire
insitute. It doesn't need to be "politically correct" but if it's going to be edgy then it certainly should also be funny!

17. it was worth my time
18. It seems to be the same thing every year.
19. TTI was ok this year. I hated the break out building session, but other than that it was a wonderful day of being with fellow TTI family members. Thanks for a good job.
20. clorox wipes are not meant for hand sanitation, the directions are to wash your hands after using them.
21. We don't need ice breakers in my opinion because this is TTI. A large group of professional people who travel constantly. If they want to know someone they will walk up and introduce themself and have a conversation...if not the ice breaker will do nothing for them anyway. There was no professional growth in this TTI day. The flash light was great!
22. This survey needed to be sent out earlier while the events were still fresh on the minds of those who attended TTI Day. In my opinion, the questions on the next page are neither clever nor funny.
23. I think that moving the start of the program to 9:00 am would be better.
24. It took me a while to remember when TTI Day was, oh yeah, over 2-months ago.
25. comments, comments, comments.
26. survey should be done immediately -- it is easier to make comments when the memories from the event are still fresh.

**Winners of the Building Activity:**

The project least likely to require federal bailout funds: Team 4 with 17 votes

Other votes received:
- Team 1 = 5
- Team 2 = 1
- Team 3 = 1
- Team 5 = 1
- Team 6 = 1
- Team 7 = 2
- Team 10 = 3
- Team 11 = 2
- Team 12 = 1
- Team 13 = 2
- Team 15 = 2
- Team 17 = 1
- Team 19 = 1
- Team 20 = 1
- Team 21 = 5
- Team 22 = 2
- Team 23 = 2
- Team 24 = 2

The project most likely to land you in patent litigation: Team 4 with 16 votes

Other votes received:
- Team 1 = 4
- Team 2 = 5
- Team 5 = 1
- Team 6 = 2
- Team 8 = 1
- Team 9 = 1
- Team 10 = 1
- Team 12 = 2
- Team 13 = 7
- Team 18 = 1
- Team 20 = 2
- Team 21 = 1
- Team 22 = 3
- Team 24 = 3

The project most likely to end the debate on global warming *(Fossil fuels!!! What fossil fuels???)*: Team 4 with 9 votes

Other votes received:
- Team 1 = 3
- Team 2 = 3
- Team 3 = 2
- Team 5 = 3
- Team 6 = 4
- Team 9 = 1
- Team 10 = 1
- Team 11 = 3
- Team 12 = 5
- Team 14 = 1
- Team 15 = 1
- Team 17 = 3
- Team 20 = 1
- Team 21 = 1
- Team 22 = 7
- Team 23 = 2
- Team 24 = 1