

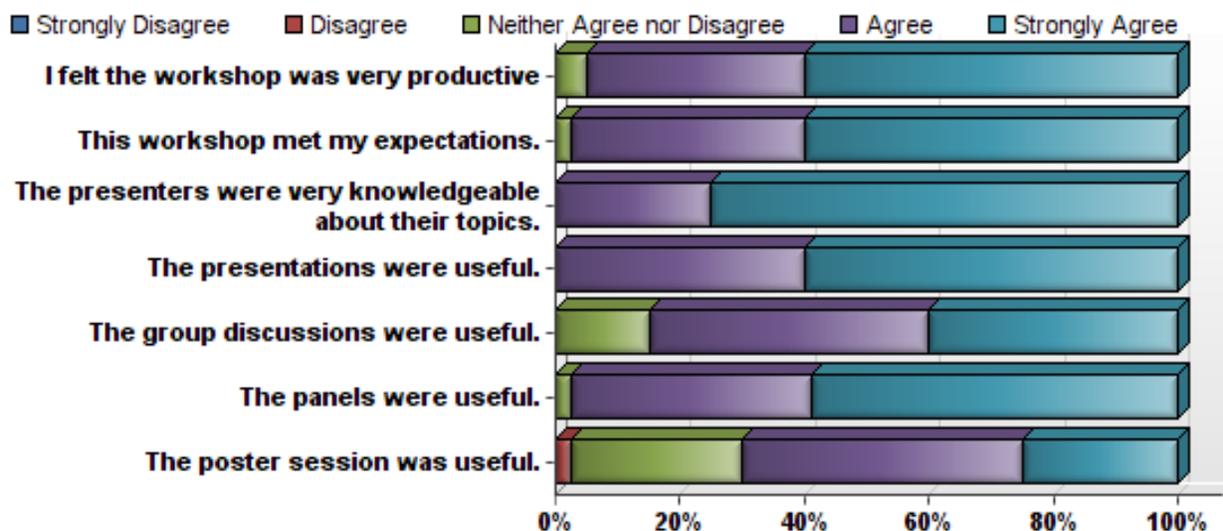


**Evaluation Summary Report**  
*Workshop: Spring Opportunities Workshop  
for Women in the Mathematical Sciences*

April 9-11 2014

Pamela Bishop  
Evaluation Manager  
National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis  
May, 2014

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this workshop:



Comments:

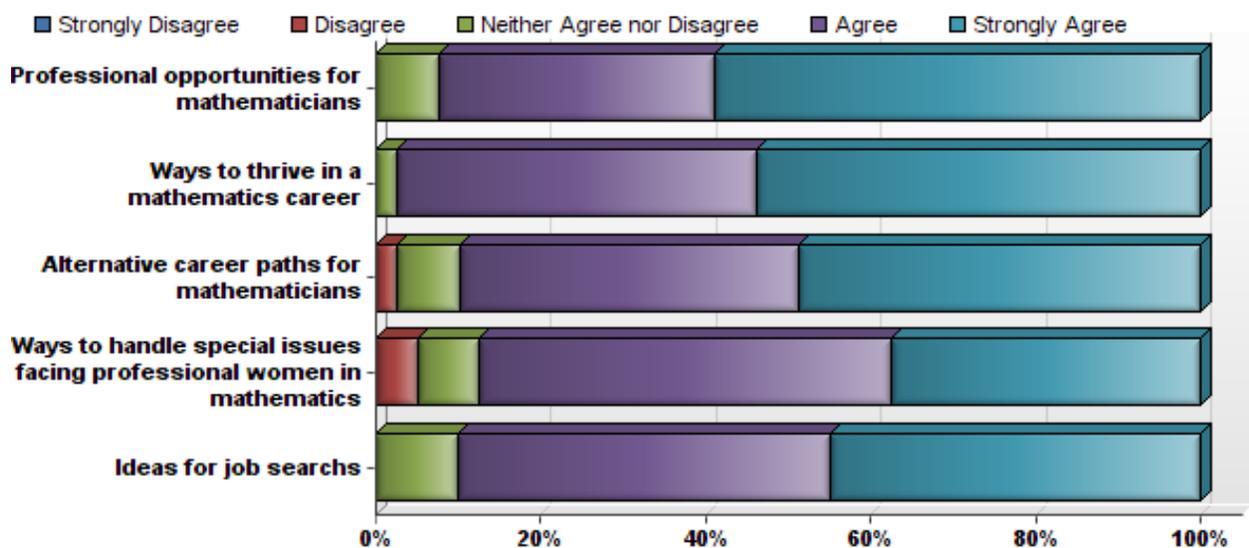
The workshop exceeded my expectations. It was so helpful and all of the lectures were enlightening and interesting. It was great to get info about industry and government jobs as well as strict academic jobs as well.

Wish we had more posters in more diversified areas

More time for the poster session would have been nice. Maybe have dinner during the poster session so that people can linger over the posters and discussions that arise.

It was GREAT having the representatives from grant organizations there! And very nice that they were free to talk between sessions.

2. As a result of participating in this workshop, I have a better understanding of:



## Comments:

Job search and interview talks were very helpful. We were able to talk about challenges for women in a way that we could only address in an all women workshop.

Though the workshop discussed many useful opportunities for mathematicians and how to explore them, I felt that I already knew most of what was discussed.

There are a lot of topics in the breakout sessions that interested me. But because of the limited amount of time we had, I was not able to attend all sessions that I was interested in.

### 3. What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the workshop?

The networking aspect of the workshop was best.

The size was perfect - a wide variety of people but still small enough that you could have meaningful conversations with other participants and the speakers. It was nice that the speakers all stayed during the day so you could strike up conversations with them organically.

Speaking with other professional mathematicians in industry.

I gained knowledge from people worked in the academic and industry. It shows me the possible choice for future. It also helped me build network.

Having the opportunity to hear professionals from all aspects of academia and industry.

Some of the talks, plus opportunities to talk (would have enjoyed even more opportunities to talk informally with others).

Networking and getting valuable advice and lessons from older people (i.e. Graduating students, postdocs, early career faculty, etc.)

Panel discussion, share of experiences

I really enjoyed networking and the smaller group discussions. Suzanne gave me some really good advice and I was very appreciative that she made sure to follow up on questions I asked.

Networking with colleagues in the same area, techniques to keep the job, appreciation for our career.

I felt the most useful aspect of the workshop was interacting with other women in mathematics on a personal level, hearing these women journey was very helpful to me.

Real examples and career path of senior women researcher

Industry opportunities for Women in mathematics

What I really enjoyed was having the opportunity to ask presenters questions both as part of the presentation and during the breaks between presenters.

The panel on industrial and government jobs.

Hearing from women who have gone through the job search process and getting lots of advice on how to apply.

I always find networking at these types of workshops to be the most important. I feel that I will maintain contact with a number of the women that I met.

Networking and talking to the individuals from grant institutions.

Networking

Efficiency with which it was done.

Getting information on different careers paths available.

Meeting other women at comparable points in their careers.

The diversity of ideas was very helpful and informational.

Connecting with other women in math.

The help from other participants, esp. Representatives of the grant institutions, giving career advice for job hunts and direction.

The panel discussions.

It helped to communicate with other female academics

Networking with the participants, and the presentations given.

I really enjoyed the opportunities to network and socialize at the poster session.

I found the panel discussions to be most useful. I think it was also good to have research/career talks from a variety of areas, and I think it was particularly useful to have presenters talk about their career choices/paths as part of their talks.

The presentations and panels were incredibly interesting and have many opportunities for further discussion and questions. It was also a very useful networking opportunity.

Opportunities for break-out discussions among the participants

Networking

Discussion on "Got a job and Early Career Issues," and the discussion on the various panel.

Networking with other female researchers and insight into job opportunities other than academia.

#### **4. What would you change about the workshop?**

It was nice that we had input into the breakout group discussion topics, but the process of organizing where they would be held and such got a little hectic. Some of them also seemed a bit rushed.

Nothing!

Panels were interesting, but questions only came from the audience, with almost all answers given by panelists. Would have been a plus to have a broader discussion where others could add their insights as well.

The focus seemed mostly on academic career choices, but I have already decided not to pursue an academic career. I would have focused the workshop more evenly between academia and industry.

Invite more famous speakers.

I think the workshop need more time; maybe can ask more students to bring their posters.

Unfortunately a few speakers cancelled and it hinders the panels and a talk time. The organizer did a great job adjusting to the circumstances.

Longer breaks. Smaller groups for the discussions. There were lots of senior people, who all had lots to say. There could have been more focus on individual people's issues if we had split into smaller groups.

More time to talk informally with the industry folk. Since it was on the last day and they were rushed to get out of there, it felt like there wasn't time to network with them as much as everyone else there.

Could the workshop be 1 more day longer? Invite more people from various cultural backgrounds.

I would like to see more minority women involved in the panels/talks and organizing the workshop.

It would have been nice if days during the workshop didn't end quite so late even if it meant stretching it out over another day or starting earlier on Wednesday.

The second day was very long. Maybe move to a different room for some of the presentations.

I might begin with the Breakout Groups or some other activity that has people talking to each other and getting to know the others. I think it was hard for the speakers who had to go first. The environment was more friendly and relaxed for the speakers on the second and third days. Running the workshop Thurs to Sat might be easier for those needing to cover MWF classes.

Everything was great. Perhaps the breakout sessions can be organized a little bit better.

If anything I would have liked a schedule a little less intense. It was nice because every minute was packed full of useful information, but I felt the pace was tiring.

Group's discussions needed more structure and guidance to avoid degenerating into individual therapy sessions.

Nothing, I thought it was very well done.

Over half of the graduate students indicated that they were interested in jobs that are primarily teaching, but MOST of the panelists and speakers were from heavy research positions. It would have probably been more helpful to bring in more people from teaching schools, and including someone from a small liberal arts school on the tenure panel.

More grant representatives from NSF and other groups -- and maybe more time to chat with speakers -- and introductions to people with similar interests...for example, I was the participant from ORNL, and would have been glad to have that tagged to my name. People were able to find me anyway, but I had trouble finding people from, say, a grad school I was interested in.

I would have more math talks. And a longer poster session.

Nothing much. I like if I got the chance to attend all the group meetings during the lunch time as I liked all the topics.

Group discussions during lunch break. I would have more discussions after the group meetings. Of course I understand there was a time constraint.

There isn't necessarily anything that I would specifically change about the workshop itself, but I would have found it useful to have a list of professional organizations that are out there, either from the professional development (e.g. Project next) or professional organization (e.g. AWM) side of things. There was a lot of good information given during the various panels and talks, but it might be useful to provide workshop participants with a list and very short description of these opportunities for a quick reference. This could potentially just accompany the pamphlets that were provided in the workshop classroom.

I wouldn't want to change anything other than perhaps making it longer in order to get a stronger grasp on the subjects discussed and build stronger relationships with the wonderful people I have met.

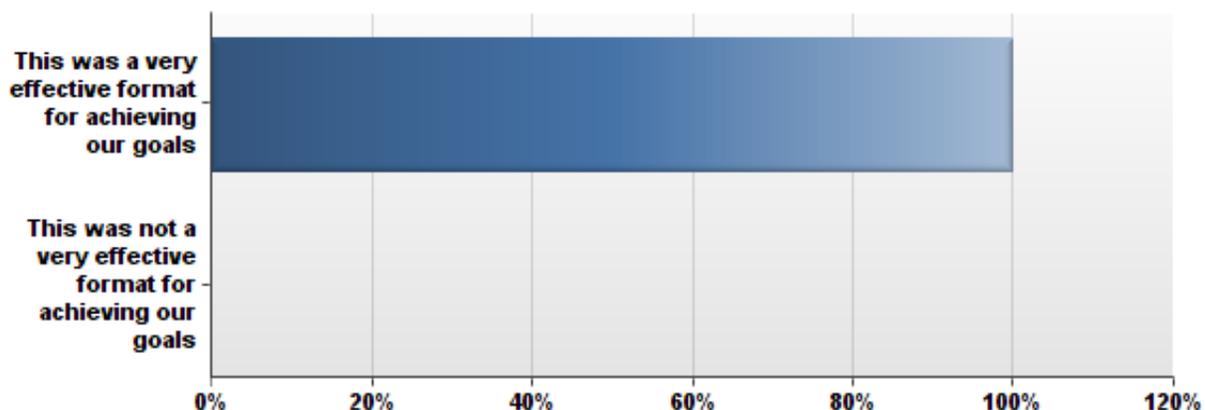
The first day was a bit tiring since we worked/met straight through dinner into the evening

More breaks and a wider variety of talks to choose from

If they could be more time allocated for group discussion on Jobs search, grants writing however the organizers did a good job.

Add a discussion of government jobs for mathematicians.

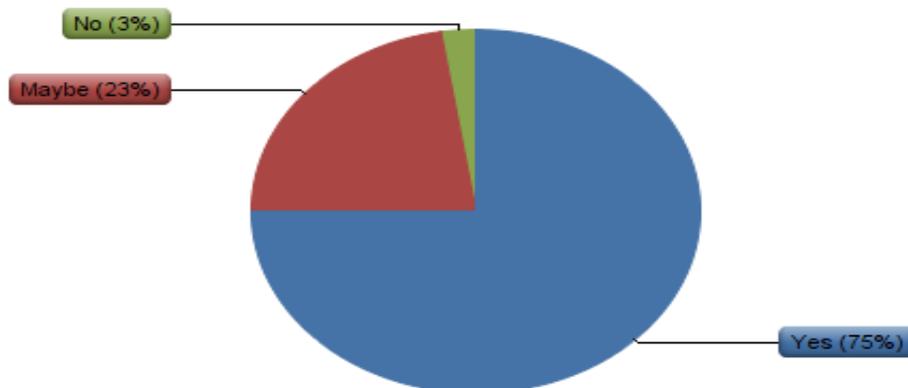
## 5. How do you feel about the format of the workshop?



### The workshop format would have been more effective if:

No comments

## 6. Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the workshop will influence your future career plans?



### Comments about influence on career plans:

I was able to network with women from all industries and got a much better understanding of the structure of an academic career

I now have more information about what it takes to obtain tenure.

I am planning to stay in academic after I graduate. However, it may change after I join this workshop. I got more information from people work in industry. It won't be a bad choice.

I got an idea from one of the speakers that I will follow up on.

I got some advice on how to focus my research, how to start a research program, and advice on if I ever choose to switch jobs.

I particularly enjoyed Julie Barnes's talk. She and I are at similar institutions and I was able to get some great ideas for scholarship and professional development from hearing what she has done.

The networking aspects of the workshop were an invaluable resource.

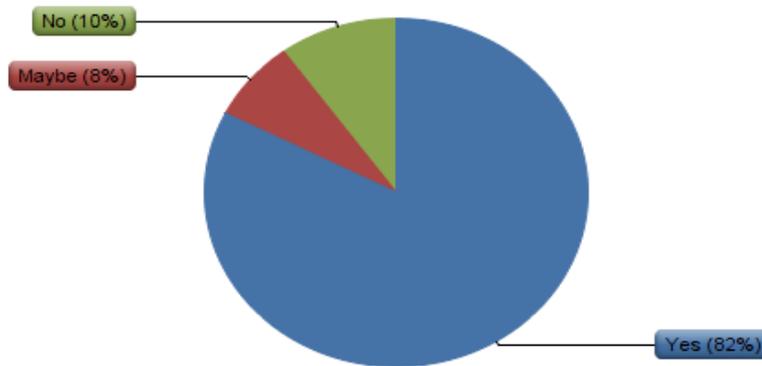
I learned about the tenure process and what I should look for/ask about when I look for a tenure track job.

I found it extremely useful and important to hear about other women's career trajectories, particularly

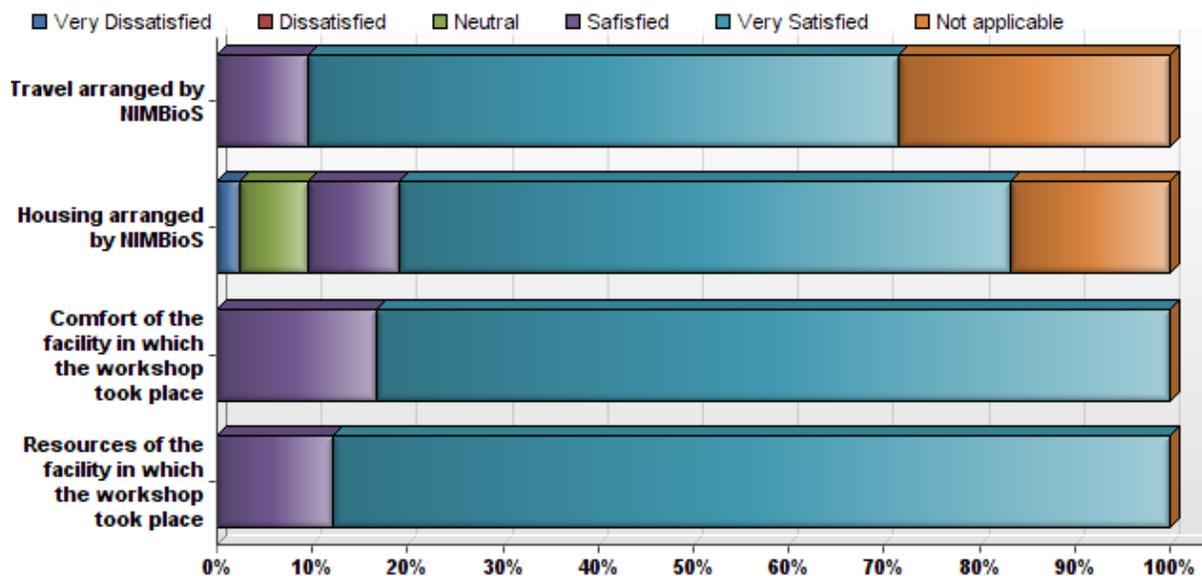
those which were not so clear cut. I also thought that the workshop was useful in giving more information regarding the details of future jobs, i.e. Things to know regarding the tenure process and how to be successful. For better or for worse, the panelists and speakers made it all seem so doable given opportunity and effort. In that sense, the workshop was incredibly encouraging for me.

The exchange of ideas in the workshop have me a much better understand of what different avenues for future career paths there are than I already had.

### 7. Did the workshop give you new ideas for professional development?



### 8. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the workshop accommodations:



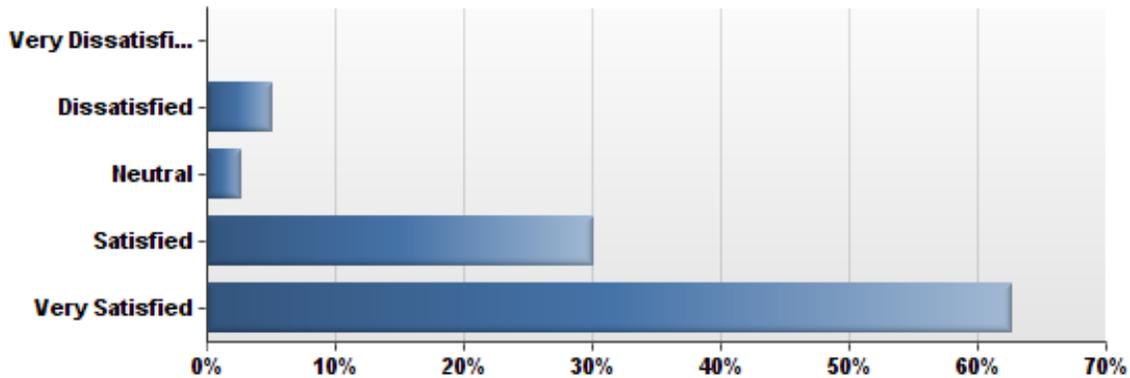
### Comments about accommodations:

I think it would have been a bit nicer if each set of ladies rooming together had a set of double or queen beds. I don't mind sharing a bed, but the option would have been better.

As a faculty member I would prefer not to share a hotel room with a stranger or at least be notified ahead of time that it was a possibility.

I LOVED the compost and recycling options! Great to have integrity with our values.

## 9. How satisfied were you with the opportunities provided during workshop presentations and discussions to ask questions and/or make comments?



### Please indicate any suggestions you have for facilitating communication among participants during the workshop:

Passing the microphone almost inhibited conversation because participants could not speak freely. However, I think it's necessary for the live stream.

Not enough time was left for questions. The schedule was really full. I suggest paring down the schedule - shorter math talks would be fine. It would be so wonderful to have more time to interact with individuals who spoke or who have questions.

Maybe some opportunities or ice breaker activities at the beginning of the workshop to get to know the other participants better.

Some concerns that certain individuals were dominating the questions. Perhaps ask participants to submit questions in advance to start off the panel discussions (still allowing time at the end for additional q's)

## 10. Additional comments:

Loved this workshop, thought it was incredibly useful/helpful for careers. With a few minor tweaks, I think it could be even more useful. Might have more of the presenters give some short presentation early in the conference, so people know what they do, what to ask them about. For some of the talks on the last day, there wasn't time to discuss/talk to the speakers. And the talks can all be shorter. 20-25 minutes of speaking, 5-10 minutes for questions would be good.

Kudos to the organizers! Thanks for a great workshop!

The conference went very well. In addition to the talks and panels, there was a lot of informal networking.

I really enjoyed the work shop. It was really useful. Thank you for organizing such a work shop especially for women in Mathematics!

I had a great time, and found this workshop to be extremely valuable in outlining my future plans! Thank s!  
Wonderful workshop. I am very glad I had the opportunity to attend. It was incredibly useful and very interesting.

Fantastic workshop!

The workshop was very informative, and the participants were very open and it was easy to interact. I was contemplating on whether to continue with research or just focus on teaching since the teaching load is 12 credits hours per semester, but after listening and talking to these brave and knowledgeable women in the field, I now feeling confidence and energetic to continue with my research while teaching. I will like to say thank you the organizing committee and especially to Dr. Suzanne Lenhart, Mrs. Kelly Sturner and Dr. Snehalata. I am happy I was part of this workshop. Thank you!