

2020 Diversity Forum Assessment

PARTNERS:



Cultural Intelligence Committee
Ottawa County



Holland
MICHIGAN



Ottawa County
Where You Belong.

Journeys to Equity in Public Service

The 2020 Diversity Forum was held on October 20 from 8:15 – 3:15 through Zoom as a Virtual platform. Ottawa County partnered with the City of Holland to create a learning event for the community at large; focusing on public service.

The 2019 Diversity Forum:

- 106 first time registrants
- Over 225 participants attended.

Given the ever-changing world around us with COVID-19, the Diversity Forum was held virtually for the safety of all attendees and staff. However, this change did not change the impact and importance of the Forum.

The day proceeded as follows:

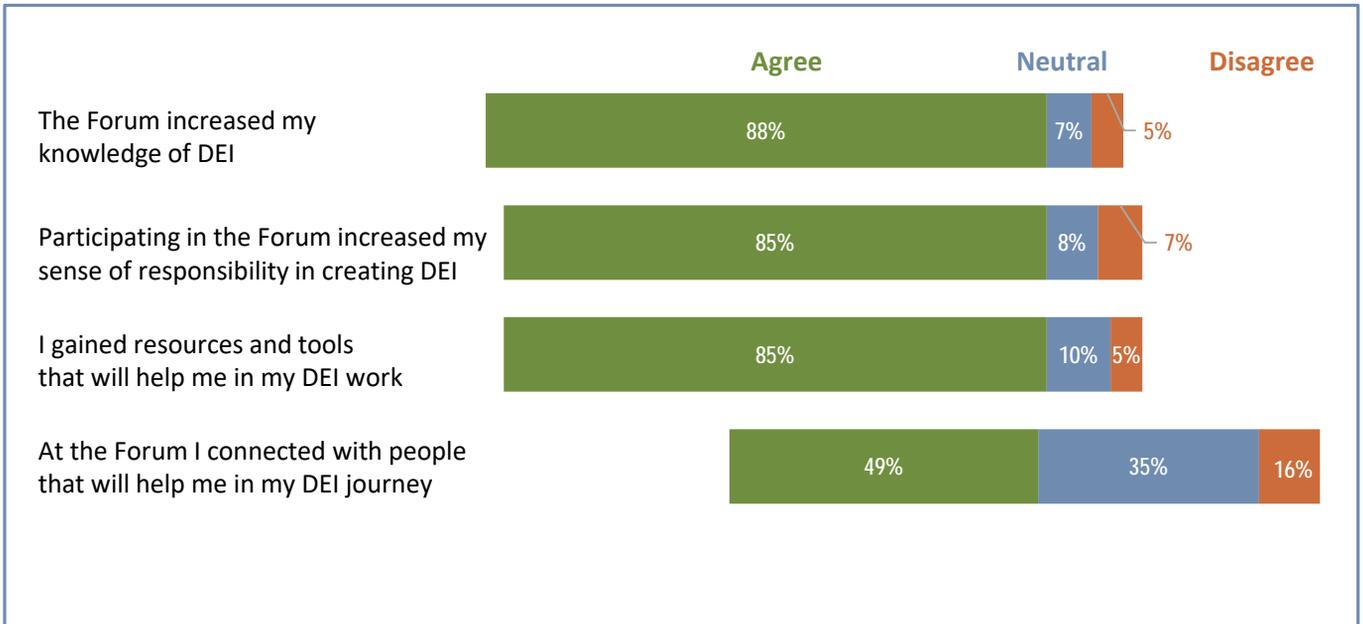
- 8:15 am Welcome
- 8:30 am GARE Advancing Racial Equity, The Role of Government I
- 10:45 am Equity Award Presentation
- 11:00 am Health Equity Panel
- 12:00 pm Lunch Break
- 1:00 pm GARE: Advancing Racial Equity, The Role of Government II
- 3:00 pm Closing

Attendee Feedback

Receiving a variety of feedback is important to us as we plan out the Forums for years to come. We collect overall experience as well as how each session throughout the day was communicated to the attendees.

While it is not easy to accomplish everyone’s interpretation of a perfect event, we strive to make the Forum informative and inspiring for all in attendance.

Overall Forum Feedback



We were pleased to see overall responses were immensely positive and showed favorable gains in applicable knowledge. We also found that 85% felt the Diversity Forum increased their individual responsibility to create DEI upon the conclusion of the event.

Keynote: GARE

Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) presented a dynamic and powerful conversation around the role, responsibility, and opportunity for government to advance racial equity. They focused on what it means to normalize racial equity as a core value with clear definitions of key terminology, operationalizing racial equity via new policies and institutional practice, and organizing, both internally and in partnership with other institutions in the community

Participants were able to gain awareness of the history of race and of implicit/explicit bias and individual, institutional, and structural racism and how it impacts the workplace; gained skills for identifying and addressing institutional and structural racism; and increase their capacity to advance racial equity.



Gordon Goodwin,
GARE Director



Sarah Lawton,
GARE Regional Manager



Kristina Wieghmink,
Public Information
Officer



Derick Chia,
Epidemiologist



Stephanie Goris,
Communicable
Disease Nurse



Jorge Garcia,
Community Health
Worker

Health Equity Panel

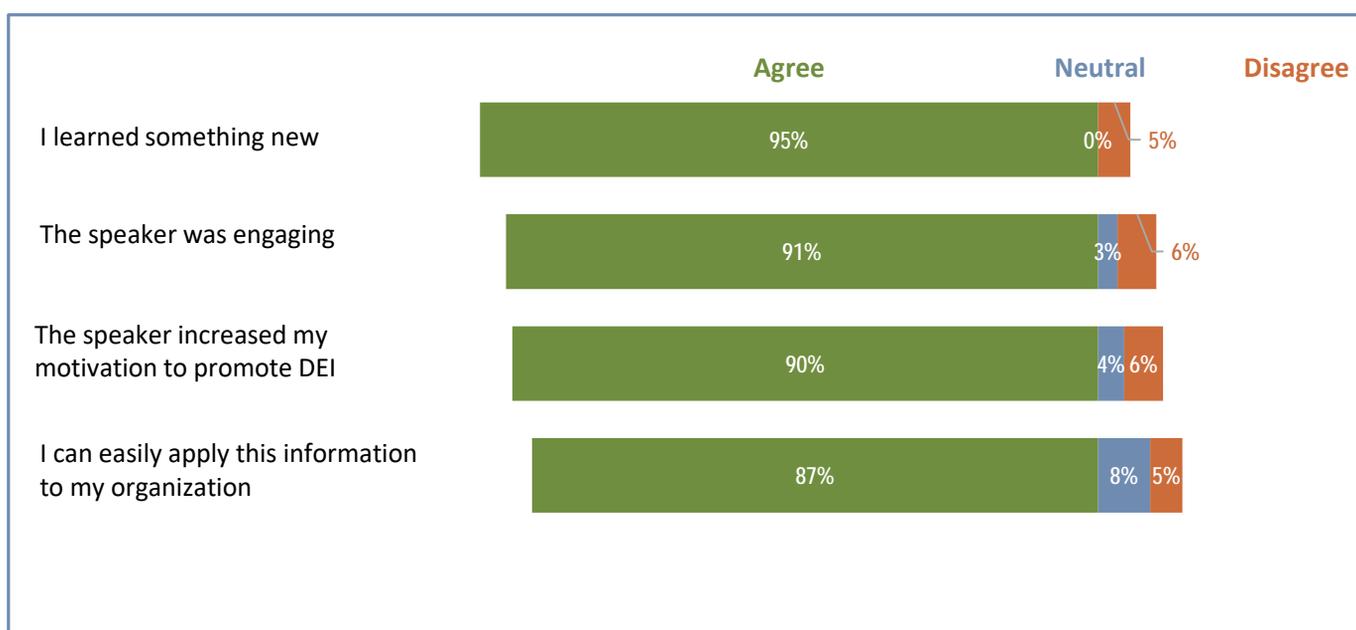
This year's panel focused on Health Equity. Area's covered:

- Addressing health inequities amid COVID-19 and beyond
- Intervention strategies that create equitable societies where all people can achieve their optimal health
- Ottawa County Department of Public Health's data driven decisions
- Commitment to community collaborations

Attendee Feedback 2

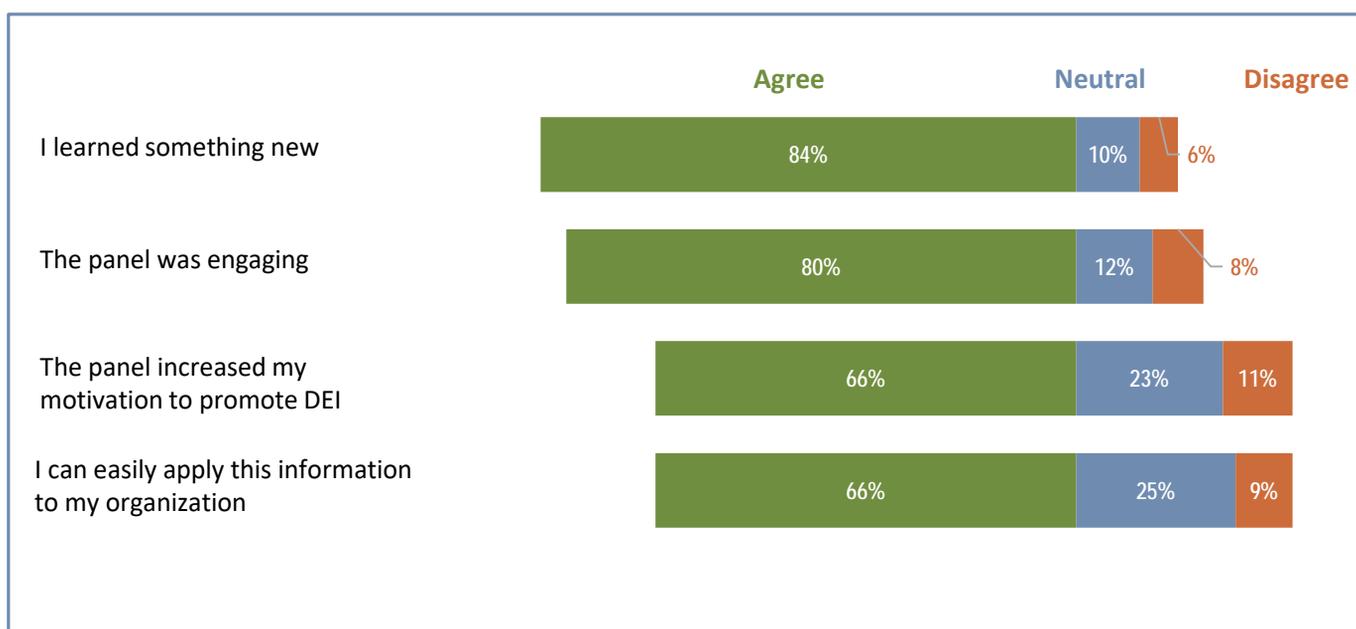
Attendee Feedback regarding GARE's Keynote

Keynote Feedback



Attendee Feedback regarding Health Equity Panel's

Panel Feedback



Excellence in Equity Award

The Excellence in Equity Award recognizes individuals that impact the public sector field in Ottawa County and focus on the importance of equity through their practices, programs, policies, and decision making.

Esther Fifelski,
the second
Excellence in
Equity Award
recipient.



Conclusion – Thank You

This year's theme, Journeys to Equity in Public Service, was chosen by Ottawa County's Cultural Intelligence Diversity Forum Planning Committee (CIC) based on last year's Diversity Forum and a community feedback survey indicating areas of interest. The Forum has provided a unique opportunity to learn, listen and engage, while pivoting to a remote platform.

On behalf of Ottawa County, the Ottawa County CIC, and the City of Holland, we truly thank each one of you for choosing to spend a day with us virtually. From the many comments received, we look forward to seeing an increased movement and commitment on a journey toward equity.

Refreshing to hear all that is being done in our County and beyond!

This Forum gets better every year.

This is just what our organization needed with something for people at every level on their DEI journey.

Thank you, I learned a ton!

I enjoyed and learned a lot from the entire event.