



ITHAKA S+R

**KESSLER**  

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**SCHOLARS**  

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**COLLABORATIVE**

# **2022 Summer Convening**

## **Pre-Survey Memo**

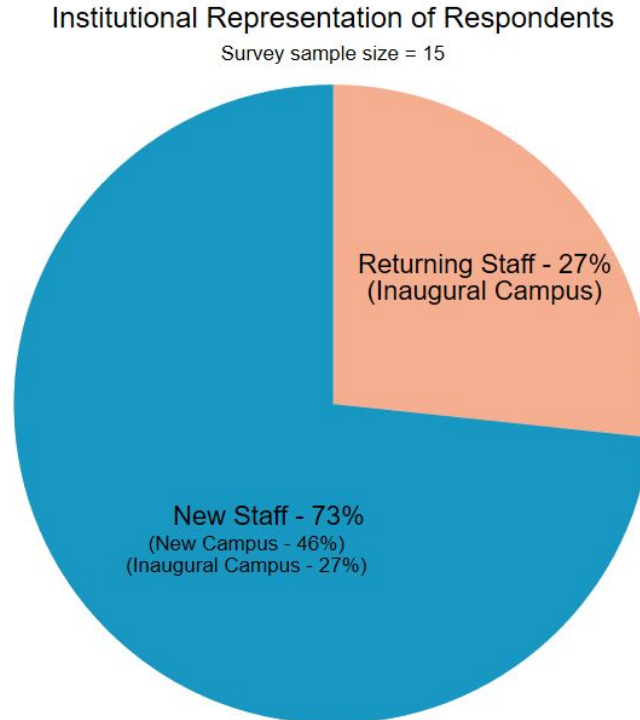
August 3, 2022

# Introduction

- Ithaka S+R conducted a **pre-convening survey** of program staff at partner institutions, from July 11-25, 2022.
- **Survey goals:**
  - Gather feedback on the activities and support by the Collaborative,
  - Identify priorities for future programming, and
  - Learn more about the program staff.
- **62.5% response rate** - 15 out of 24 invited respondents completed the survey.
- This report summarizes the perspectives of the program staff, based on the sub-sample of survey respondents

# Institutional Representation of Survey Respondents

- **54% of all respondents work at inaugural partner institutions.**
- **73% of all respondents are new to the Kessler program**, either at inaugural campus partners (27%) or new campus partners (46%)

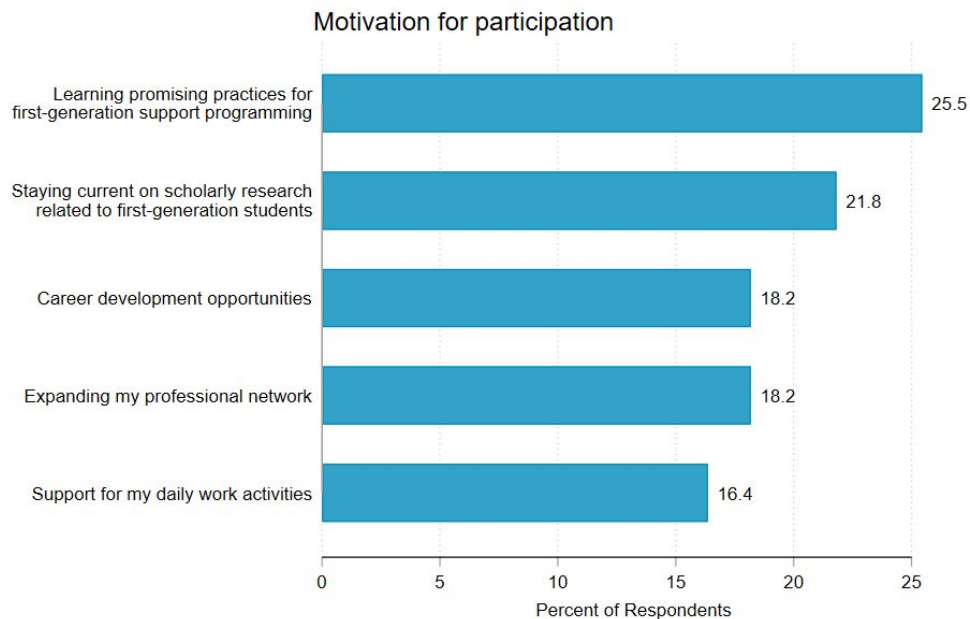


## Survey Respondents

Respondents bring **significant career and institutional work experience, advanced credentials, and lived experiences** to their work

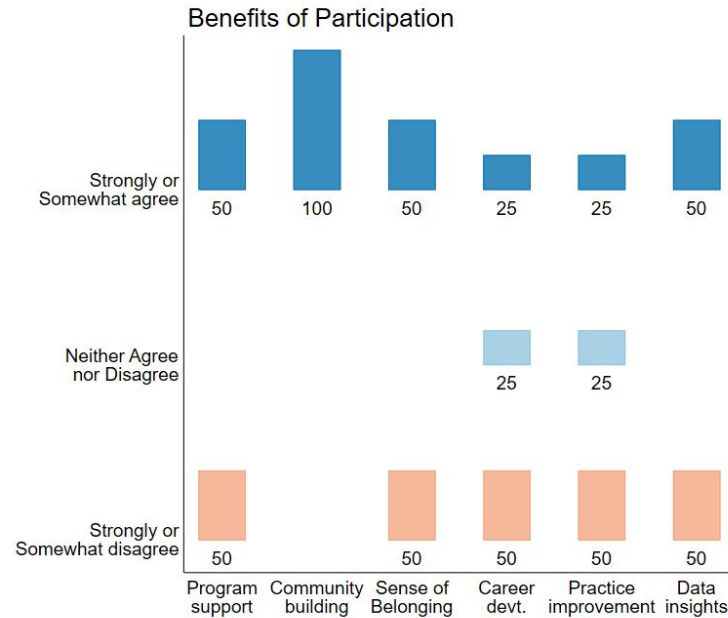
- 87% of respondents have a graduate degree, including master's (27%) and doctoral (60%) degrees.
  - **54% of respondents have graduate degrees with specializations in higher education or student affairs.**
- 77% of respondents hold mid-to-senior level staff roles at their institutions.
- Despite significant staffing changes within campus programs, there is still significant institutional memory across the program
  - 43% of respondents have worked at their institution for at least a decade.
- **67% of respondents identify as first-generation students.**

# Learning and practice-sharing are the most common motivations for participating in the Collaborative



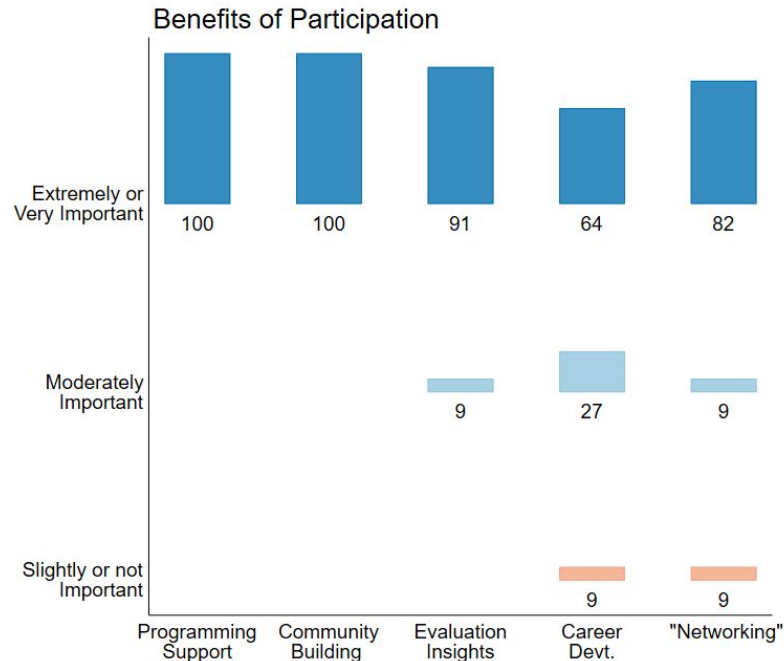
## Benefits of Participation in the Collaborative

Current program staff find **community building** to be the most important benefit of the Collaborative



## Benefits of Participation in the Collaborative

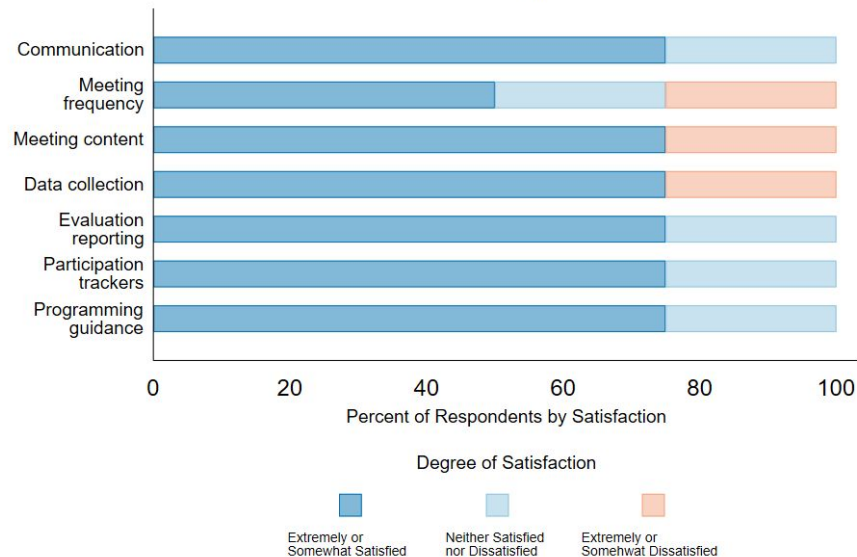
New program staff expect **community building, programming support, and evaluation insights** will be the greatest benefit of the Collaborative



# Most respondents were satisfied with the activities and supports provided by the Collaborative

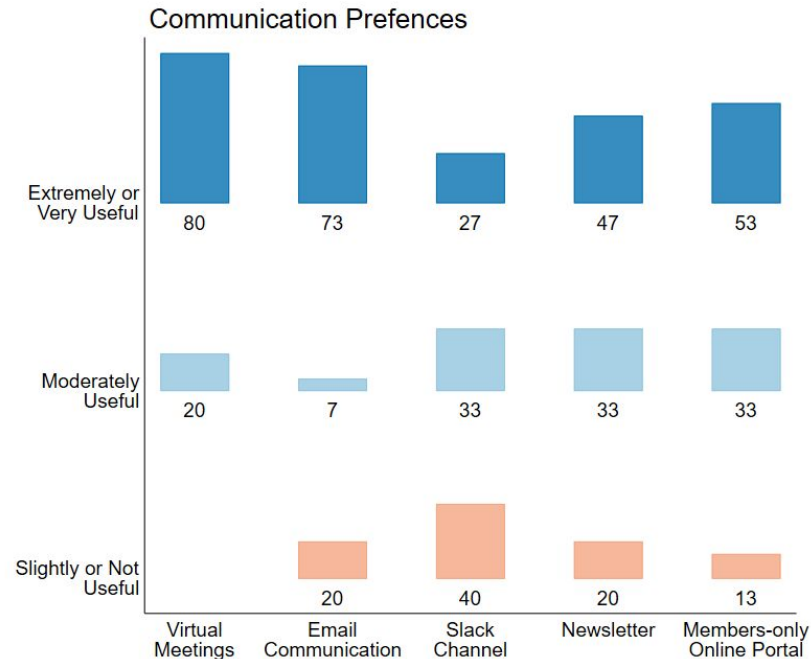
However, some respondents were dissatisfied with meeting frequency and content, and aspects of the data collection process.

Satisfaction with Collaborative Activities and Supports

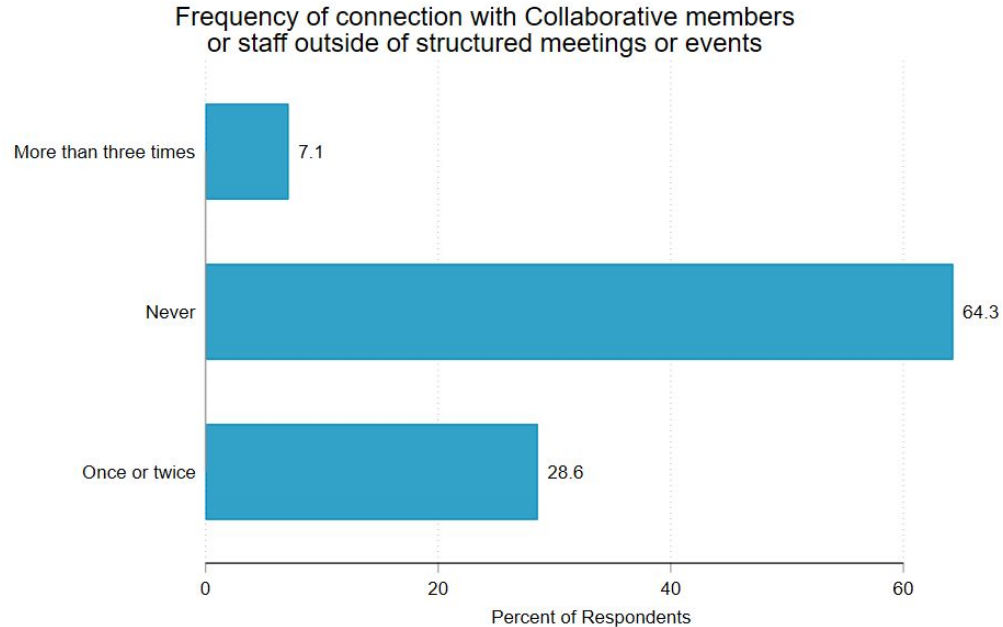




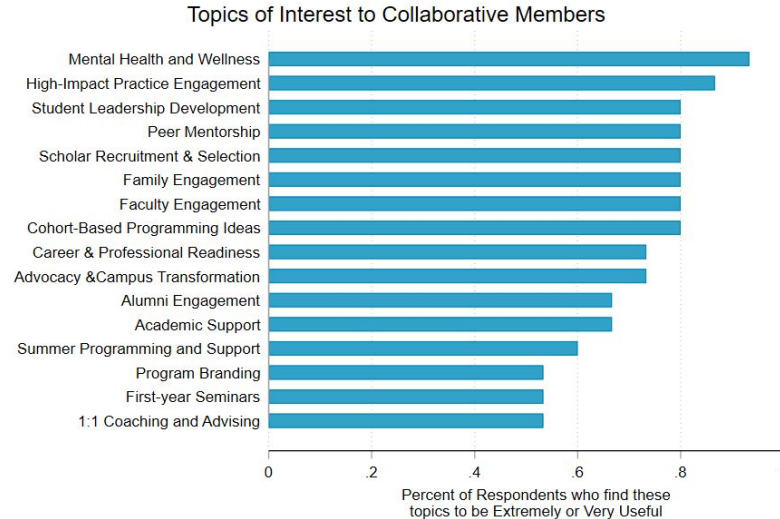
Respondents find **virtual meetings and email** to be the **most useful** forms of communication from the Collaborative



# Only 36% of respondents communicated with other Collaborative members or staff outside of structured meetings or events in the past month



# Respondents are most interested in Collaborative-wide discussions around **mental health and wellness, and high-impact practice engagement**



Other topics of interest include shared student database or enterprise trackers, and advice on connecting to other inter-campus first-generation low-income student programs

## Other desired program support and guidance from the Collaborative include

- Understanding program expectations and guidance
- **Best practices on inter-campus collaboration** and practice-sharing
  - Program successes, recruitment strategies, summer bridge program
  - Working groups to connect campuses with similar populations or programming needs
- **Building external connections**
  - Between campus programs and community-based organisations that scholars could benefit from interacting with
  - Between alumni scholars and other first-generation professionals post-graduation
- Building a sustainable model beyond the grant period

# Convening Expectations

- **Understanding the Collaborative**
  - How will the addition of the 10 new partners change the vision and operation (meeting structure) of the Collaborative?
- **Learning and Practice Sharing**
  - Launching a new program
  - New program ideas - program planning and administration, connecting with students and faculty
  - Understanding personnel and staffing at other Kessler Programs
  - Developing a scholar recruitment strategy
  - Using evaluation to improve programming
- **Expanding professional networks, establishing relationships and building communities**