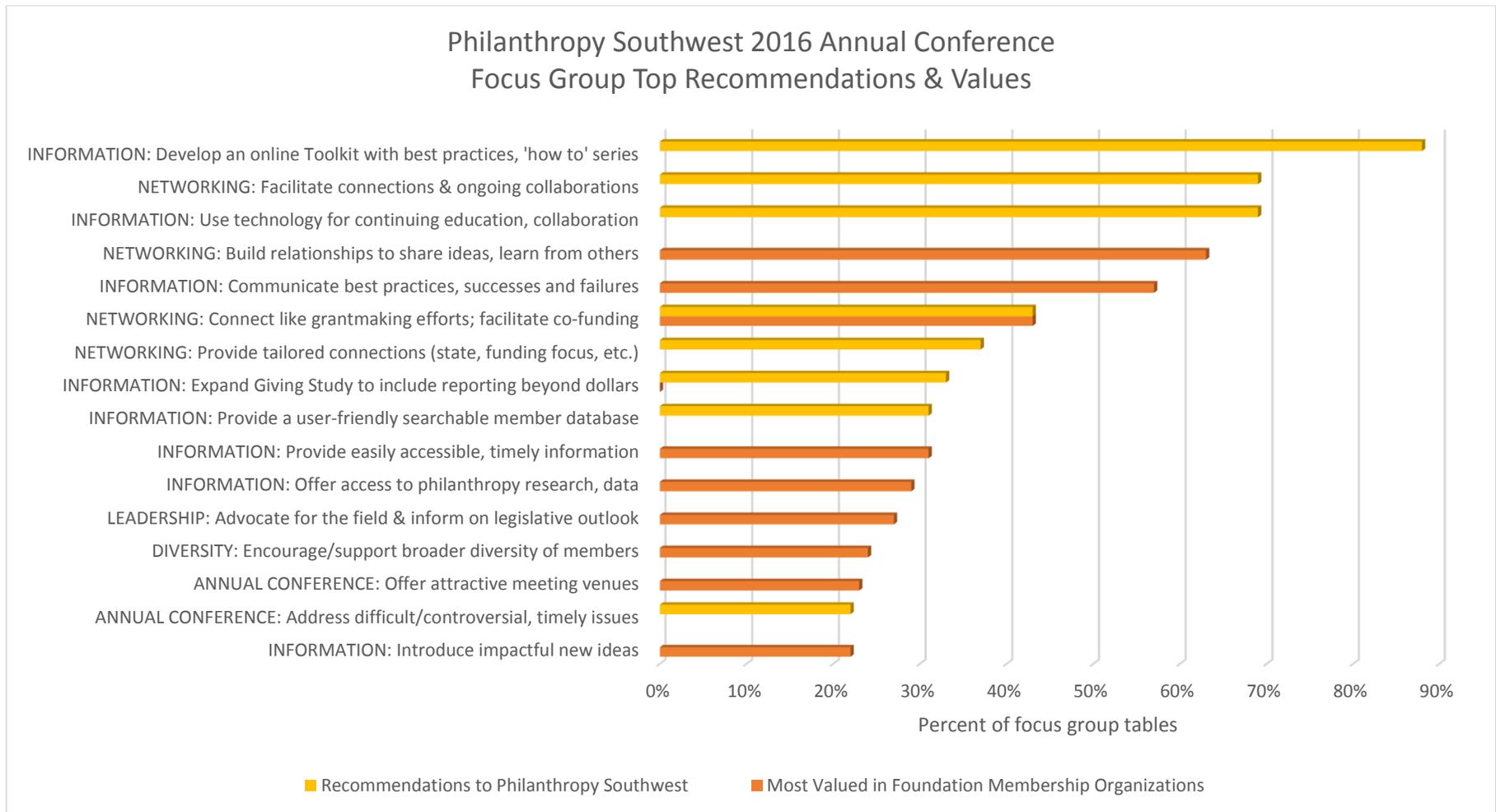




## 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE — FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

A large, focus-group type session was held during the 2016 Philanthropy Southwest Annual Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Scott Sherman, Executive Director of the Transformative Action Institute, facilitated the session, with support from Amy Meadows, Philanthropy Southwest Board President. At luncheon tables of 8, the 400+ conference attendees responded to two prompts: 1) What is most valuable to you in a foundation membership organization; and 2) What would you like to see Philanthropy Southwest focus on in the future. Monitors at each of the 51 tables took notes of the small group discussions. Two views of the summary of responses are shown below.



The responses in the graph above are also shown below in a side-by-side table. Items garnering smaller numbers of mentions are added below to show the breadth of issues addressed and for comparative purposes.

<b>Side-by-Side Summary of Top Responses</b>	
<b>MOST VALUED IN FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED FUTURE FOCUS FOR PHILANTHROPY SOUTHWEST</b>
<b>Networking</b>	
62% Build relationships to share ideas and learn from others 43% Collaborate and connect like grantmaking efforts 18% Support affinity groups (health, environment, arts, education, rural, etc.)	69% Facilitate connections and ongoing collaborations 43% Facilitate co-funding/leveraging funds among members 37% Provide tailored connections (regional, state, funding focus, etc.) 31% Provide a user-friendly, detailed searchable database of members
<b>Information</b>	
57% Communicate best practices, successes and failures 31% Provide easily accessible, timely information 29% Offer access to philanthropy research and data 22% Introduce impactful new ideas	88% Develop an online Toolkit with best practices, 'How To' series 69% Use technology for continuing education, collaboration 33% Expand Giving Study to include reporting beyond dollars
<b>Leadership</b>	
27% Advocate for the field and inform on legislative outlook 12% Encourage and support members in following best practices	12% Encourage members to model effective, responsible philanthropy 12% Provide larger vision for the field; forefront of societal change
<b>Diversity</b>	
24% Encourage, support broader diversity of member	14% Support/mentor people new to the field and younger generations
<b>Annual Conference</b>	
24% Offer attractive meeting venues 14% Provide exposure to new subjects, ideas and approaches	22% Address difficult/controversial, timely issues 14% Allow plenty of time for networking 14% Continue to offer tailored tracks (career, youth, women, roles, etc.)
<b>Member Supports</b>	
6% Have staff that is known, caring, collegial and responsive	12% Offer financial assistance to grow/diversify member engagement 12% Stay true to the mission of PSW; keep the feeling of trust/collegial

**Philanthropy Southwest welcomes your ideas, suggestions, questions and feedback *throughout the year!***

You are the key to change and innovation, and together we can make things happen... faster. We encourage you to consider becoming a volunteer for a Philanthropy Southwest committee: [Volunteer Interest Sheet](#). The committees and our board of directors will take a deeper dive into the focus group responses, using this resource to strengthen and advance the work of member foundations and the field of philanthropy.

**We invite you to be a part of this!**

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