



# All Things Ignatian



## A Poster about the Posters! An Institutional Examen on Justice

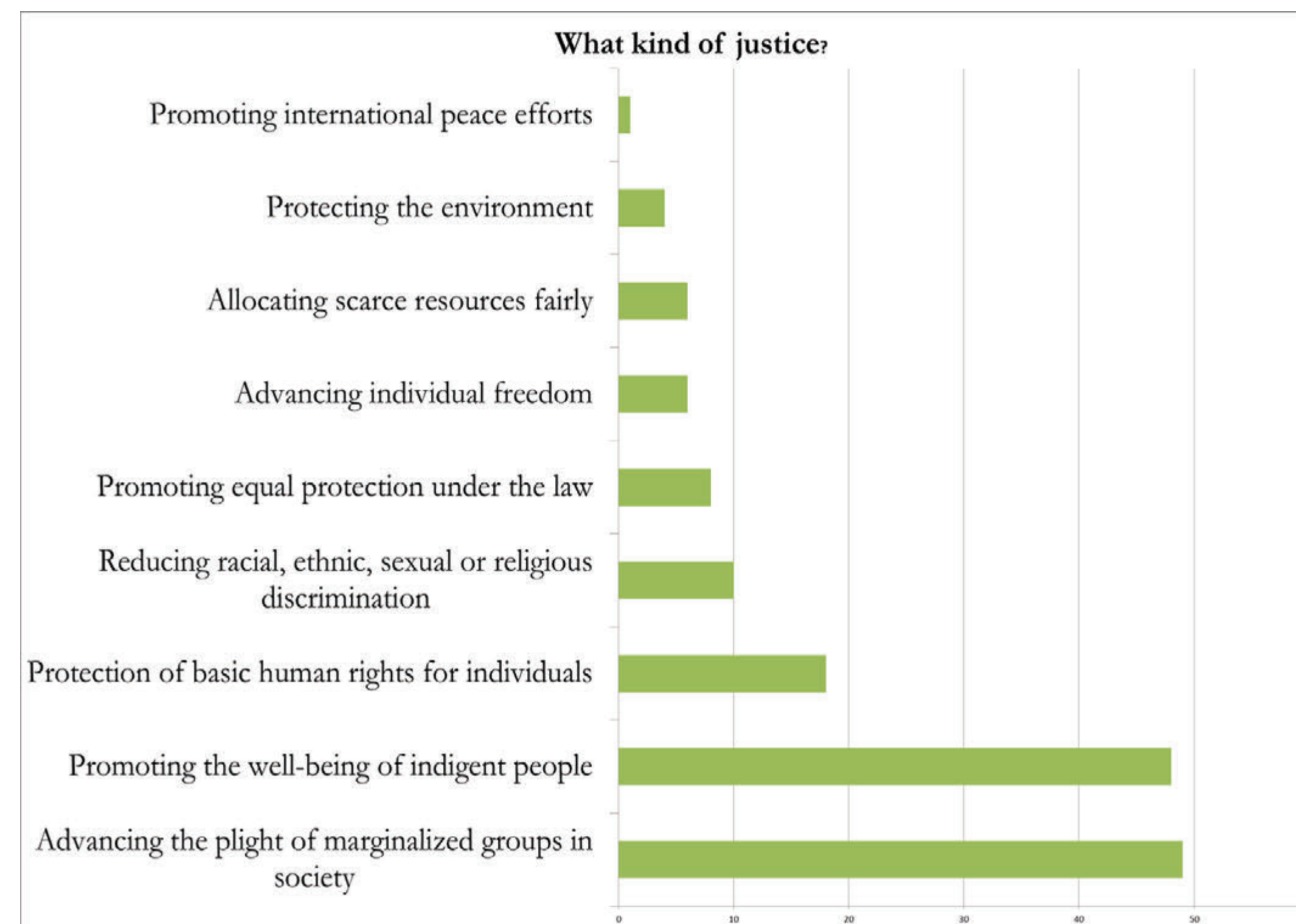
Dr. Roger Bergman, Director, Justice and Peace Studies Program

### Context

In 2011, each of the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the U.S. was asked to conduct an Institutional Examen on the commitment to justice in preparation for the “On Fire at the Frontiers” Conference, sponsored by the Association of Jesuit Colleges & Universities and hosted by Creighton University, August 1-4, 2013. This poster summarizes the report prepared by the Creighton Justice Committee.

### Data Source, Rationale, and Methodology

In February of 2011 and again in 2012, the All Things Ignatian Committee hosted exhibits of a total of 157 posters depicting programs and projects that manifest Ignatian values in action at Creighton.. The commitment to justice in Jesuit higher education was *not* specified as a possible poster topic. However, if justice is understood to be essential to Ignatian mission, then it should be represented in the posters, which became the principal data source of the Examen report. Two graduate students knowledgeable of Catholic Social Teaching evaluated all 157 posters using a list of questions prepared by the Committee.



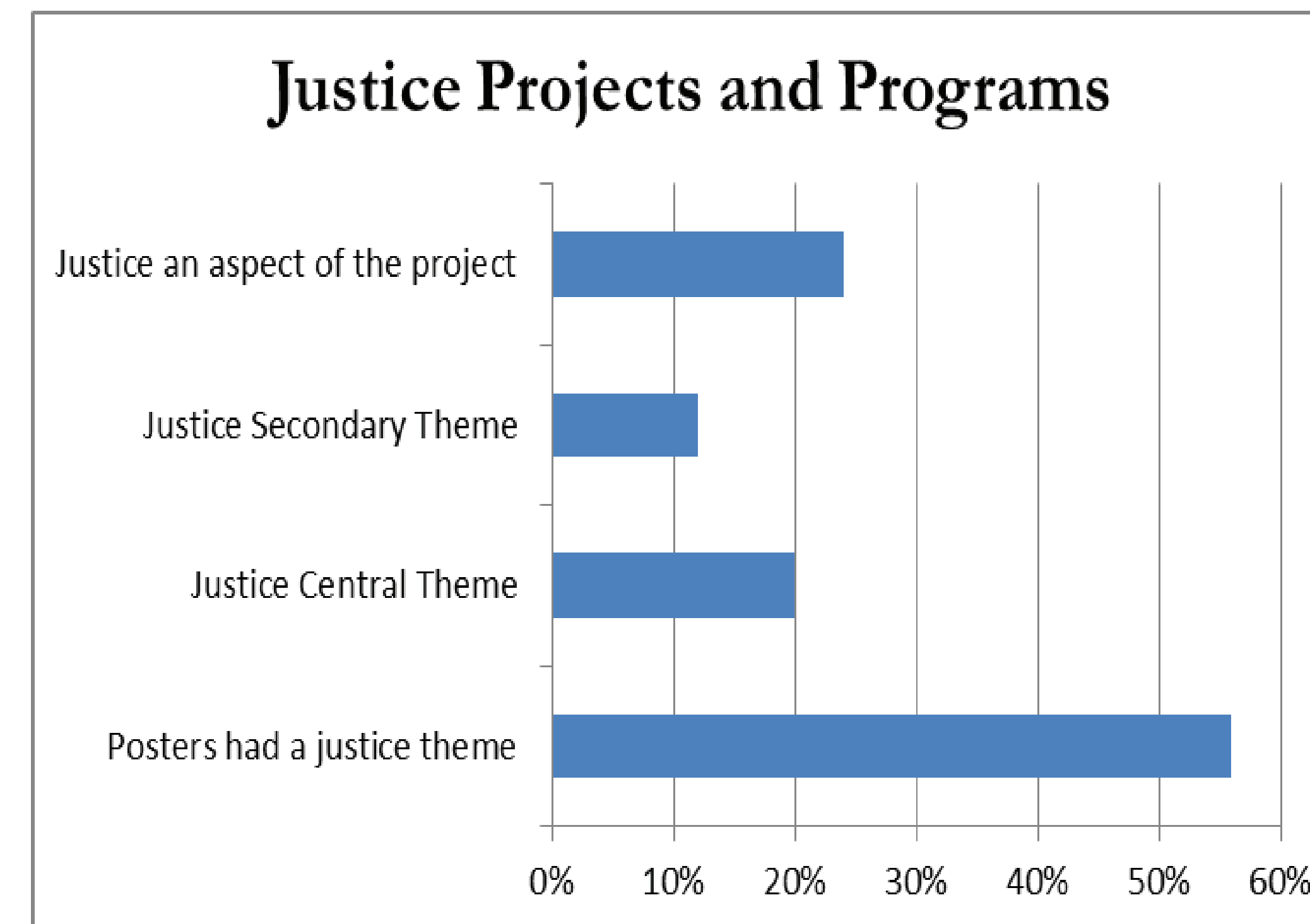
### Fr. Kolvenbach’s Rubrics

Drawing on Fr. Kolvenbach’s landmark address at Santa Clara University in 2000 at the first national conference on the Commitment to Justice in Jesuit Higher Education, the survey asked if the justice project addressed “the formation and learning of Creighton students” (80%), “the scholarship and research of Creighton faculty” (5%), or “Creighton’s ‘way of proceeding’ (how we do business) as a Jesuit institution” (14%).

### Recommendations

#### Recommendations: from 1999 to 2012

The 1999 report, “Education for Justice at Creighton University Since 1975: A Self-Study,” made three recommendations. The Examen indicates progress made and work yet to be done.



**Recommendation # 1:** *The promotion of justice should be made an explicit goal of all the colleges and schools of the university in their mission statements and curricular requirements.*

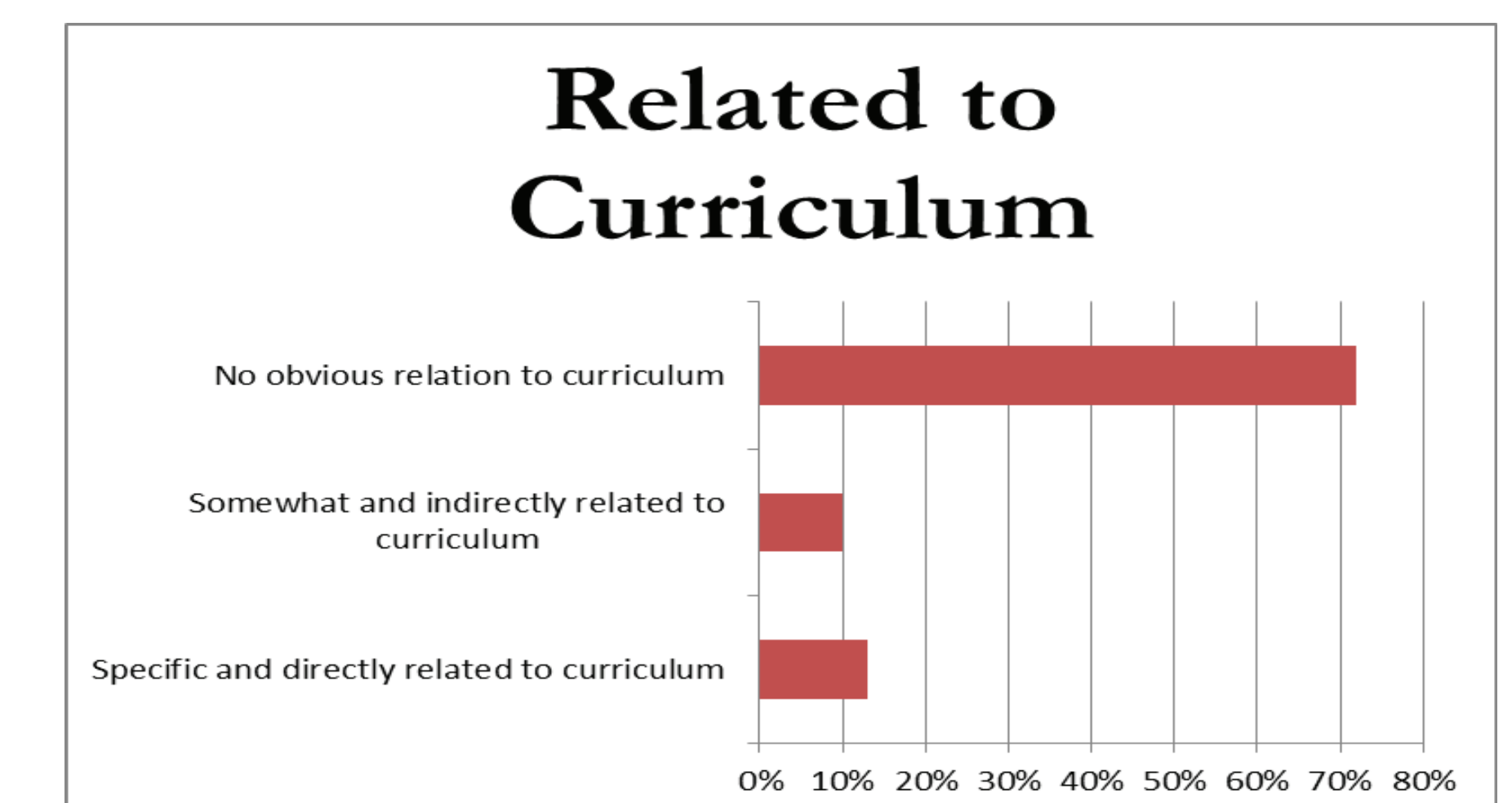
Although 4 of 5 justice-related posters address student formation and learning, it does not follow that justice is being consistently and widely addressed in the classroom, since a significant number of these posters represented projects outside of academic affairs. Only 13% of the justice-themed poster projects were specifically and directly responsive to a curricular requirement, while 10% were somewhat but only indirectly so. A whopping 72% had no apparent curricular dimension. Also, only one of twenty justice-related (and reported) projects on campus involve faculty scholarship and research.

**Recommendation # 2:** *New strategies of intensive study, immersion, service, and reflection should be established, especially in the undergraduate programs.*

*Encuentro Dominicano*, successor to *Semestre Dominicano*, has continued to offer small numbers of undergraduates such formative experiences. New Faculty Led Programs Abroad have taken small groups of students for short periods not only to the Dominican Republic but also to El Salvador, Peru, Bolivia, China, Tanzania, and Uganda.

**Recommendation #3:** *The University should commit the necessary resources to make service-learning on behalf of justice an identifiable mark of campus culture and a Creighton education.*

A substantial number of posters depicted justice-themed, community-based academic service-learning programs. But it is not clear that such service-learning is now “an identifiable mark of campus culture and a Creighton education.” One new development is the Cortina Community, a sophomore residential learning program with a service and justice focus.



The entire Examen and the Executive Summary of all 28 Examen reports are available from the Justice Committee chair, Dr. Roger Bergman. *Please watch for announcements about how these documents will be utilized for reflection at Creighton.*

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Degelman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.