Update from the Chair of the Statistical Education Section

January 2018

Welcome to a new year in the Section on Statistical Education. It’s hard for me to believe we are already half way through the first month of 2018! Welcome to our new executive committee members and a huge thank you to our retiring members.

This looks like an exciting year for the section as we celebrate our 70th anniversary. Below are just a few of the initiatives underway this year and I hope you will share even more ideas for celebrating this section milestone!

* Expanding our outreach through social media
  + Be sure to watch for blog posts throughout the year as well as our regular newsletter
* Continuation and expansion of the section mentoring program
  + A rolling application window for mentees and mentors will start March 15, with guaranteed consideration to submissions received April 30.
* Data Science joint committees
  + The National Academies have released their interim report on Envisioning Undergraduate Data Science Education and is continuing their webinar series (<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cstb/currentprojects/cstb_175246>)
* A new format for JSM roundtables for the section
  + Program chairs Kelly McConville (2018) and Stacey Hancock (2019) have volunteered to organize “no cost” discussion groups for the 2018 JSM.
* Exploring training programs for graduate students interested in teaching
  + Iowa State, as part of the CIRTL, is leading an effort to provide pedagogy training for graduate students and postdocs who become educators. The section is looking for ideas to join these efforts, perhaps following a Project NExT type model for statisticians. Also check out the new StatPREP workshops starting this summer (<https://www.maa.org/programs-and-communities/professional-development/stat-prep>)
* Be sure to put the upcoming eCOTS (May 21-25) on your calendar (<https://www.causeweb.org/cause/ecots/ecots18>).
  + Proposal submissions are due March 1.

Please consider becoming involved in these efforts and others. Our section is very interested in supporting member initiatives, including with money! Please consider submitting a proposal to the executive committee this year. <http://community.amstat.org/statisticaleducationsection/aboutus/officers> Below I have a reminder of our section’s mission.

Thanks to all of your for your membership in the Section and for your support of these activities and your ongoing creative ideas. We hope this year is a fulfilling one in your statistical education pursuits; don’t hesitate to contact me or any officer if there are ways we can help.

Sincerely,

Beth Chance

Chair, ASA Section on Statistical Education

**Mission Statement – Section on Statistics Education**

Statistics is the science of learning from data. Our mission is to promote the teaching and learning of statistics at any level for any audience. Specifically we will:

* Advise the Association on the educational elements of the ASA strategic plan, including the need for education on the role and value of statisticians to the following audiences:
  + Management in business and government
  + Professionals such as journalists, lawyers and medical personnel
  + Public policy makers at state, national and international levels
  + K-12 policy makers, administrators and teachers
  + Academic non-statisticians
* Promote research and practice to improve statistics education and statistical literacy
* Support the dissemination of professional development and funding opportunities, teaching resources and research findings in statistical education.
* Improve the pipeline from K-12 through colleges to statistics professionals.

Outcomes:

* Help ASA achieve strategic goals, in collaboration with external entities
* Expanded professional development opportunities
* Improved teaching
* Improved cooperation between statistics education researchers and practitioners in their role as statistics educators
* Improved pipeline