

Update from the Chair of the Statistical Education Section

January 2019

Welcome to a new year in the Section on Statistical Education. It's hard for me to believe we are almost to the second month of 2019! I am honored to be chairing the section in 2019 and very much looking forward to all of the Section's activities throughout the year.

Below are just a few of the activities underway this year:

- **Data Science Education Working Group:** A group of 15 faculty from Statistics, Computer Science, and Mathematics have been working on issues such as the revision of our chapter charter (which we'll all get to vote on later this spring), a definition of data science specifically as it pertains to statistics and data science educators, building a repository for resources for data science education, outlining data science skills of statistics majors and communication with other disciplines invested in data science education. Expect to hear more from this group in the next few months.
- **Social media:** We are continuing to expand our outreach through social media. Be sure to watch for [blog posts](#) throughout the year as well as our regular newsletter. Let me and/or Kay Endriss know if you have any news, events, etc. you'd like to highlight on the blog.
- **Section Mentoring Program:** We have a fantastic group of new members on the Mentorship Committee, chaired by Jennifer Green. A rolling application window for mentees and mentors will be announced soon, make sure to watch for that announcement.
- **Professional Development Workshops:**
 - ◆ There is a need for additional training for statisticians to stay abreast of modern statistical practice. Some companies offer courses, but often at a cost that is prohibitive for academics. Michael Posner is leading an effort on a program that would provide such courses for our members. Stay tuned for more announcements on this program in the next few months.
 - ◆ StatPREP will host four regional workshops in summer 2019 focused on helping educators learn to teach modern methods of data analytics in introductory statistics courses. See [here](#) for more information.
 - ◆ Preparing to Teach: At JSM 2018 we ran a successful workshop for graduate students and junior faculty on [Preparing for Careers in Teaching Statistics and Data Science](#). We are hoping to be able to offer a similar workshop again at JSM 2019, and will notify members soon as we hear back on our funding request.
- **USCOTS 2019:** The theme of this year's USCOTS is *Evaluating Evidence*. The conference will be held May 16-18 in State College, PA. The deadline for submitting proposals for posters and beyond sessions is February 1. More information [here](#).
- **JSM 2019:** The theme of this year's JSM is *Statistics: Making an Impact*. Program chairs Stacey Hancock (2019) and Amelia McNamara (2020) will continue to organize "no cost" discussion groups for JSM 2019. The deadline for submitting proposals for contributed papers and posters, speed presentations, and roundtable discussions is February 4. More information [here](#).
- **ASA DataFest 2019:** We have [37 participating locations](#) lined up for ASA DataFest 2019! I'd be happy to answer any questions about the event and chat about getting involved in the future.

Thank you for your membership in the Section and for your support of these activities and we hope you will consider becoming involved in these efforts. Additionally, if you have ideas for new initiatives and need a little seed money to get your idea off the ground, please submit proposals to the [executive committee](#). Our Section is very interested in supporting member initiatives, and we hope to fund several this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing executive committee officers Ann Cannon, Ulrike Genschel, Brenda Gunderson, Sarah Kalicin, Kelly McConville, and Paul Roback for all of their hard work behind the scenes on behalf of the Section. Thanks also to incoming officers Jennifer Broatch, Jessica Chapman, Amelia McNamara, Beverly Wood, and Michael Posner for their willingness to step in and help further the mission of our Section (which I've included at the end of this message). And a huge thanks to last year's chair Beth Chance for all the initiatives she helped put into place in 2018. Filling her shoes will be tough!

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,

Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel
Chair, ASA Section on Statistical Education

Mission Statement – Section on Statistical 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