

*Update from the Chair of the
Section on Statistics and Data Science Education
January 2021*

Welcome to a new year in the Section on Statistics and Data Science Education. Let's hope that 2021 brings lots of new and exciting educational ventures. And maybe also some in-person gatherings. I am honored to be chairing the section in 2021 and very much looking forward to all of the Section's activities throughout the year.

Below are a few of the activities underway this year:

- **Social media:** We are continuing to expand our outreach through social media. Be sure to watch for a bi-monthly member update on the [section blog](#). You can see our first member update on the blog soon. Maria Tackett will also post announcements she receives through [this form](#). Let me and/or Maria 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 Nicole Dalzell. Applications for mentees and mentors will be announced in early May, make sure to watch for that announcement.
- **Awards Committee:** Chaired by Jamie Perrett, the section has recently organized a committee that is working on ways to increase transparency and diversity in the awards related to statistics education.
- **Fellowship Program for HS and TYC Teachers:** Because of the schedule disruptions due to the pandemic, Amy Hogan and Kathy Kubo will stay on as our HS & TYC Fellows. We look forward to hearing from them later in the year with information about outreach to their communities. The deadline for the 2022 Fellows will be in May, stay tuned for application information.
- **K-12:** Chris Franklin continues to lead us as the K-12 ambassador. PreK-12 GAISE II is finished and available [here](#). We look forward to her regular updates, including the ASA K-12 chat series and changes to curricular guidelines in many states.
- **Professional Development Workshops:**
 - ◆ **StatPREP** will hopefully host workshops in summer 2021 (not confirmed yet) focused on helping educators learn to teach modern methods of data analytics in introductory statistics courses. See [here](#) for more information.
 - ◆ **Preparing to Teach:** Over the last few years Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel and others have run successful workshops for graduate students and junior faculty on [Preparing for Careers in Teaching Statistics and Data Science](#) (in person in 2018 and 2019, virtually in 2020). They are hoping to be able to offer a workshop again at JSM 2021 and will keep the section up to date as JSM 2021 plans evolve.
- **TSHS Resource Portal:** The Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences Section of the ASA continues to update their teaching resources portal. Many great examples and datasets! Hosted by CAUSE, I encourage you to check it out [here](#).
- **Undergraduate Statistics Project Competition (USPROC):** The purpose of USPROC is to encourage the development of statistics and data science skills, to enhance presentation skills, and to recognize outstanding work by undergraduate statistics and data science students. More information [here](#).
- **USCOTS 2021:** The theme of this year's USCOTS is *Expanding Opportunities*. The conference will be held virtually from June 28 – July 1. The deadline for submitting proposals for posters and beyond sessions is February 1, but Birds of a Feather deadline isn't until May 31. More information [here](#).
- **JSM 2021:** The theme of this year's JSM is *Statistics, Data, and the Stories the Tell*. Program chairs Jamie Perrett (2021) and Aimee Schwab-McCoy (2022) will continue to organize birds-of-a feather discussion

groups for JSM 2021. The deadline for submitting proposals for contributed papers and posters, speed presentations, and roundtable discussions is April 14, 2021. More information [here](#).

- **ASA DataFest 2021:** We have [28 participating locations](#) lined up for ASA DataFest 2021! 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 Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel, Amelia McNamara, Matt Hayat, Sharon Lane-Getaz, and Casey Pattanayak, for all of their hard work behind the scenes on behalf of the Section. Thanks also to incoming officers Aimee Schwab-McCoy, Alison Gibbs, Chris Malone, and Rebecca Nugent 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 Michael Posner for getting us through 2020, whew! (Apologies if I accidentally left off any names, I appreciate you all!!)

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,
Jo Hardin
Chair, ASA Section on Statistics and Data Science Education

Mission Statement – Section on Statistics and Data Science Education

Statistics is the science of learning from data, and we consider data science a partner of statistics. Our mission is to promote the teaching and learning of data-driven inquiry at any level for any audience. Specifically, we will:

1. 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:
 - a. Management in business, technology, and government
 - b. Professionals such as journalists, lawyers, computer scientists, and medical personnel
 - c. Public policy makers at state, national and international levels
 - d. K-12 policy makers, administrators and teachers
 - e. Academics in allied disciplines
2. Promote research and practice to improve education in statistics and data science, encompassing thinking, reasoning, and literacy.
3. Support the development of statistics and data science pedagogy, programs, and courses.
4. Support the dissemination of professional development and funding opportunities, teaching resources and research findings in statistics and data science education.
5. Improve the pipeline from K-12 through two-year colleges, four-year colleges, and universities to statistics and data science professionals.

Outcomes:

- Implementation of Association strategic goals, in collaboration with external entities,
- Expanded professional development opportunities,
- Improved teaching,
- Improved cooperation between statistics and data science education researchers and practitioners in their role as statistics and data science educators,
- Improved pipeline