About StatFest
StatFest 2023 is a free one-day in-person conference on September 23, 2023. StatFest aims to encourage undergraduate students from historically underrepresented groups to consider careers in graduate studies in statistics and data science. The conference is an ongoing initiative of the American Statistical Association through its Committee on Minorities in Statistics.

“I was incredibly appreciative of the overall experience. It was so engaging, informative, and accessible to many. The icing on the cake for me was hearing some of the speakers’ stories on how they arrived at their current position and seeing their dedication to minority advocacy.”

StatFest 2022 Student Attendee

Creating a Conference Elevator Pitch: Tips & Tricks
“To succeed in this world, you have to be known to people.” This quote is attributed to Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor, and it is good advice as you prepare for StatFest 2023. The organizing committee has planned an incredible event which will be your opportunity to begin to network and “be known to people” in the biostatistics, statistics, and data science community. Be prepared to network and take advantage of this opportunity. As you review the program, think about how you will introduce yourself to the professionals you will meet. What’s your elevator pitch (one example) – that 30 - 90 second statement that describes your aspirations? Once you have thought about, write it down, and practice your delivery. It will be easier to meet new people if you feel prepared. Although networking is about talking it also important to listen effectively. You might want to prepare a few questions, e.g., “What do you like most about your job?”, “What are the most important skills to be successful?”, or “What is your background?”

We need many individuals in our network because our personal and professional life is dynamic. At one point you may need a sponsor, someone who will advocate on your behalf. At another point you may need someone who will help you with professional development or someone who can help you solve a technical or personal problem. StatFest is an opportunity to meet many professionals and peers. Be prepared to have an amazing experience and to build your network!

Academia | Government/Non-Profit | Industry
Each StatFest newsletter will describe in brief one of the speaker panel career areas. This week’s summary focuses on Academia.

Do you have aspirations to contribute to the bleeding-edge of data analysis methods? Are you interested in shaping the future by discovering new ways of utilizing the data collected by smart devices which seem to become more ubiquitous every day? Or maybe you have an interest in helping the new generation of data scientists understand the underpinnings of the analysis paradigms that pervade nearly every corner of science? Academia is the route for you! Academic statisticians and data scientists make personally responsible for generating research either collaboratively with subject-area-experts or on smaller teams where they create new twists on existing ways of solving problems with statistics. Many institutions carry teaching requirements, and some even have full teaching-track faculty positions. These roles often involve teaching students how to use modern quantitative skills and thought processes.