

STATFEST 2021 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1



StatFest 2019 at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

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About StatFest

StatFest 2021 is a free two-day virtual conference on September 18 & 19, 2021. 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.

Setting SMART Goals For StatFest

A SMART Goals Worksheet is provided for your own use to help you make the most of your experiences at StatFest. It will help you reflect on your motivation and intentions for attending StatFest, set SMART goals, and organize actionable steps to help you achieve your goals.

"The most important learning moments for me were the networking opportunities... the connections that I did have a chance to make were very high quality. It was great that such knowledgeable people are able to take the time to answer questions."

-Past StatFest Student Attendee

Networking At A Virtual Conference: Tips & Tricks

- **Prepare your technology**
Make sure your camera and your audio are working before you enter.
- **Decide on who you want to meet or connect with**
StatFest will post a program on its [website](#) in advance of the event with information on speakers, panelists, and exhibitors who will attend. It's in your best interest to identify the ones you're interested in ahead of time to get an idea of potential connections.
- **Prepare questions for programs/employers ahead of time**
It's useful to research the institutions you're interested in and what opportunities may exist there. That could be as simple as web searching them or even reaching out to people at the institution.
- **Ask questions during the spoken sessions**
There are still Q & A sessions after talks and panels in virtual settings. This is a good opportunity for you to pose questions to professionals who may have career pathways that are similar to your intended goals.
- **Follow-Up with the people you have met**
You will not have time to have all your questions answered or other questions will come to mind after you have left the conference. Some people you meet will be willing to exchange email addresses with you, so that you can ask follow-up questions after the conference. Be sure to ask for contact info if you run out of time to get your questions answered. Sometimes you can get even clearer answers this way than you would get in person.