"I appreciated the inspiring and welcoming atmosphere created by the program that encouraged me to ask questions and learn about careers in statistics."
- Past StatFest Student Attendee

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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.

**Speed Networking Prep**
Imagine you have 60 - 90 seconds to describe your goals and aspirations. Your ability to do this well is the idea underpinning an "elevator pitch." As a participant in StatFest 2021, you will be able to interact with statisticians and data scientists who work in all the employment sectors.

To take full advantage of this amazing opportunity, take time to think about how you will introduce yourself and what you would like to take away from the many presentations and networking events. As you think about your elevator pitch, make it your own by avoiding generic statements and jargon. Share your educational background, a project or experience that is important to you, and, most importantly, what you value.

Since you will meet with many different people at StatFest, you will want to take time to consider how you will adapt your elevator pitch to fit the different interactions. You may want to consider how you will make a specific request for assistance. For example, you could say, "I'm interested in internship opportunities, is there a contact at your organization?" Once you have created your elevator pitch, ask a few friends or your advisor to listen to your pitch and give you feedback. The final step will be to come to StatFest 2021 and network!

**Elevator Pitch Outline**
- **Past:** Talk about some of your relevant career/volunteer/life experiences. Providing information on projects you did for classes or classes you have taken will help your audience understand how you could leverage experiences when working with them.
- **Present:** Similar to past, describe some of the current steps you are taking in the direction of your desired career. Are there subjects you covered in class that were especially appealing to you? Has one aspect of your current job or mentor steered you in the direction of statistics or data science?
- **Future:** Where are you hoping to take your career? Are there specific research areas you hope to explore in your graduate experience? What job requirements are you trying to obtain in your next career role or educational experience? This is a good time to incorporate a question tailored to the audience regarding opportunities or advice.

**StatFest Expo Exhibitors**
Be sure to tailor your elevator speech to some of the exhibitors you plan on visiting at StatFest! A list of internships, employers, and graduate programs is posted on the StatFest website [link].