Fostering Connections and Conversations between Educators

ASA Section on Statistics and Data Science Education Mentoring Program

Poll Question 1:

In your professional life, have you ever **had** a formal mentor? An informal mentor?

Poll Question 2:

In your professional life, have you ever **been** a formal mentor? An informal mentor?

ASA Section on Statistics and Data Science Education Mentoring Program

- Created to foster formal mentor/mentee relationships between statistics and data science educators

- Founding committee members (2016):
    Nicholas Horton (Chair, Amherst College)
    KB Boomer (Bucknell University)
    Beth Chance (California Polytechnic State University)
    Matt Hayat (Georgia State University)
    Nicola Justice (Pacific Lutheran University)
    Tena Katsaounis (The Ohio State University at Mansfield)

Committee Members, 2020

Jennifer Green, Chair
Montana State University

April Kerby
Winona State University

Nicole Dalzell
Wake Forest University

David Rockoff
Smith College

Jennifer Broatch
Arizona State University

Jennifer Ward
Clark College

Michael Jiroutek
Campbell University

Participation

Fall 2016: 12 mentees
Fall 2017: 17 mentees (mentors in reserve)
Fall 2018: 29 mentees
Fall 2019: 24 mentees (mentors in reserve)
Fall 2020: Enrollment still open!

The Nuts and Bolts

April - May
- Members of the ASA SSDSE apply to participate in the program as either a mentee or mentor

July
- Mentee/mentor pairings announced

August - May
- Pairs meet roughly once a month via remote means (call, video chat, etc)

- You shape the relationship as suits you both!

- Liaison checks in quarterly to see how relationship is progressing

May
- Discuss plans for moving forward; Complete end-of-year survey

Overview

Mentor and Mentee Roles
➔ *Should I be a mentor or mentee?*

Mentor and Mentee Interactions
➔ *How do we establish an effective mentoring relationship?*

Benefits
➔ *Why would I want to consider being a mentor or mentee?*

Application Process
➔ *How can I participate in the SSDSE Mentoring Program?*

Chat Prompt 1:

What do you look for in a mentor? Respond using Zoom chat.

Chat Prompt 1:

What do you look for in a mentor?

The answer probably depends on your current life circumstance!

- Are you looking to start a new job?
- Moving to a new role within a current job?
- Teaching a new course?
- Wanting to try out new teaching techniques?
- Seeking advice on finding work/life balance?
- Working towards promotion?
- Changing careers?

What makes a mentee?

Anyone looking for advice related to statistics/data science education!

Examples:

- A current educator looking to try out new teaching techniques, build a new class, or step into a promotion/new role.

- A new or prospective educator searching for career trajectory guidance.

- A Ph.D. student looking for a first academic job.

Should I be a mentor or a mentee?

- Mentors do not need to know it all!!

- Your role is just to share your experience, and help provide another perspective or resources to someone else.

What makes a mentor?

Anyone ready to share advice related to statistics/data science education! Folks like….

- A second-year educator who can talk to a first-year educator about finding their way in a new school.

- An experienced data science educator who can talk about incorporating computing in the classroom.

- A first-year educator who can help a Ph.D. student navigate the job market.

- An experienced educator who can talk about what is like to teach at a liberal arts college, or an R1 school.

Chat Prompt 2:

What are the benefits of being a mentor? Respond using Zoom chat.

Building Relationships

- For mentees and mentors alike, the mentoring relationship is meant to be just that - a relationship.

- If the partnership works, the relationship develops and changes with time.

Beyond the Program

- Your mentoring relationship does not have to stop just because the program year is over!

Learning and Growing

- Each year, we survey our mentee/mentor pairs to see how the year went.

- Overall, very positive!

- Some common themes are….
  - Mentees value the connection and support, having someone to bounce ideas off
  - Mentors enjoy the connections they form with their mentees
  - Implement a resource page

Learning and Growing

- Advice for would-be mentors: "Do it - you will be surprised at how many things you forgot you didn't once [...] know the answers to." -Tom Braun, mentor

- "My mentor was amazing! She checked in on me very regularly, which I so appreciate. [...] It's great to have an outside person as a sounding board."

Application Process

- May: Fill out the application via the google form ([LINK](#))

  - Geographic location

  - Preferred meeting times

  - Preferred discussion topics

  - Career interests

  - Research interests

- July: Mentor/Mentee pairings are announced

ASA Section on Statistics and Data Science Education Mentoring Program - Application Form

Thank you for your interest in the ASA Section on Statistics and Data Science Education's Mentoring Program! The aim of this program is to provide career advice and mentoring, with a focus on teaching and education, to help statistics and data science educators achieve their professional goals. We welcome all educators in the broader statistical and data science community including, but not limited to, K-12 schools, AP programs, community

Mentor/Mentee Pairings

- Information used for matching:
    - Preferred discussion topics
    - Geographic location and preferred meeting times
    - Career interests and research interests

Questions? Discussion?

Thank you for your time! Now, the floor is yours.

To Apply: Follow this link.

More Information: Check out Nicole Dalzell's Amstat News May 2020 article!

Additional Questions? Email Jennifer Green, jgreen@montana.edu