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GIVE ASA NEWSLETTER | FALL 2022

LEADING THE WAY IN INNOVATION  
THROUGH STATISTICS AND DATA SCIENCE  
Your Support Makes a Difference!



Olivia Brown/ASA

Attendees of the 2022 Diversity Workshop and Mentoring Program

ASA STATFEST AND THE DIVERSITY WORKSHOP AND MENTORING PROGRAM

## Shaping the Future of the Profession

These two core programs, organized by the Committee on Minorities in Statistics, help provide greater access to professional development and encourage students and early-career professionals to pursue careers within statistics and data science.

**More than 70 registered for this year's Diversity Workshop and Mentoring**

**Program, and nearly 40 mentees were matched with mentors.**

Nearly 330 registered for ASA StatFest, which was held virtually again this year on September 17. The one-day conference encourages undergraduate students from historically underrepresented groups to consider careers and graduate studies in the statistical sciences.

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“ I learned more at the [Diversity Workshop and Mentoring Program] in four days than I had in a long time! I gained invaluable knowledge about how to find your voice, how to be a good mentee, how to maintain a good mentoring relationship. And I got to network with some great and ‘real’ people. I felt a sense of belonging, community, and family. Thank you so much, COMIS Lead Team! The experience I had is priceless.” — Daniel Alhassan

# Engaging Students Through *ThisIsStatistics*

The ASA continues to increase public awareness and showcase the variety of exciting careers statisticians and data scientists have. A key part of this effort is the *ThisIsStatistics* campaign, geared toward high-school and undergraduate students, educators, parents, and school counselors.

The spring and fall contests are among the most popular content



produced through *ThisIsStatistics*.

This year's spring contest, The DataViz Headline Challenge, asked students to showcase their

statistical literacy and journalism skills by submitting headlines

for *New York Times* graphs. **There were more than 1,000 submissions from 500+ students throughout the four-week contest.**

The seventh annual fall data challenge kicked off October

17 and will run until November 6. This year's program, with the theme "After the Bell," asks student teams to dig into data about family engagement in after-school activities and school choice and provide recommendations for factors that would optimize family involvement and support of K–12 students' academic excellence.

## ASA Members Make Capitol Hill Visits During JSM 2022

ASA members in Washington, DC, for JSM met with congressional staff to discuss the importance of data science, data literacy, and statistics for 21st-century jobs, US economic competitiveness, and everyday decisions. They sought support for the yet-to-be-introduced Data Science and Literacy Act of 2022. The act would support data science curricula and professional development for K–14 educators through a voluntary Department of Education grant program with an emphasis on diversifying the US STEM workforce.



Photo courtesy of David Allison

**Kristen Sonderegger, left, who works in Rep. Trey Hollingsworth's (R-IN) office, meets with ASA member David Allison during JSM 2022.**

“Data literacy and the ability to access data, analyze data, understand data, and communicate results from data analysis to others is as essential today as learning how to read and write.” — David Allison, Dean of the School of Public Health, Indiana University Bloomington, acting on behalf of the ASA



Graphs from *The New York Times* discussed in What's Going On in This Graph?

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS GRAPH? Enters 6th Year

Since its launch in 2017, WGOITG has been engaging students from middle school to college and helping improve their understanding and critical interpretation of visual displays of information. The program also supports teachers by giving them a fun way to engage

their students in data and statistics with real-world applications. WGOITG, a partnership between the ASA and New York Times Learning Network, is led by Sharon Hessney, with Roxy Peck and Erica Chauvet serving as editors.

**From September 2021 to May 2022, there were 30 WGOITG releases with 25 graph types and 11,382 responses.**

“I love using What’s Going On in This Graph? in my statistics class when I think there is something my students might be particularly interested in,” said Amy Ballard, a teacher at Brashier Middle College Charter High School. “Some of the graphs shared at the beginning of the pandemic helped my students see just how beneficial knowing statistics and understanding graphs could be.”

“ [WGOITG] helps students have a deeper look into the graph and really think about the message, rather than just going with the obvious. I truly believe this will help students become better media interpreters in the future.” — Ellen Thompson, WGOITG moderator





From left, Serene Jiang, Figaro Loresto, and Amanda Malloy show off the food bank collection bins—part of the ASA GivesBack Impact DC program.

Photo by Drew Malloy



Amanda Malloy/ASA

Win a prize like this when you participate in ASA Giving Day November 18.

## Support Statistics on ASA Giving Day 2022

Leading the way for innovation through statistics and data science and empowering through education, advocacy, and community. This is the theme for this year's ASA Giving Day.

The ASA Board of Directors, who will be at the ASA office for the fall board meeting, will kick off the day via livestream. You can watch the livestream on Facebook and Twitter at 8:30 a.m. ET. Watch your email and social media for special announcements and updates throughout the day.



As always, there will be opportunities to win prizes. Be sure to participate in the Chapter Challenge and University Challenge. Challenge winners will get a goody bag to use as a door prize at a future virtual or in-person event. The Chapter Challenge winner will have the opportunity for ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein to speak at a chapter event.

Visit [ww2.amstat.org/givingday](http://ww2.amstat.org/givingday) for more details.

## ASA GivesBack Has New Signature Event

For information about how to get involved with ASA GivesBack, visit <https://linktr.ee/asagivesback>.

The ASA GivesBack group adopted the Impact program as a signature annual event. The program will take place in conjunction with JSM each year and support a charity local to the host city. **This year, the GivesBack team organized a food drive to support the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, DC.**