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GIVEASA NEWSLETTER • FALL 2024

## PROMOTING THE PRACTICE AND PROFESSION OF STATISTICS

Your Support Makes a Difference!

# Statistics Without Borders Hosts Data Science Bootcamp for Global Impact



Data Science Bootcamp attendees pause for a snapshot.

Statistics Without Borders, financially supported by the American Statistical Association, is an all-volunteer outreach group whose mission is to advance humanity by partnering with socially conscious communities to increase their capacity for data-driven decision-making. This is done primarily by completing pro bono projects with not-for-profit and nongovernmental organizations throughout the world. **In 2023, volunteers worked on 51 projects with 42 clients in 19 countries.**

From August 19–30, 2024, Statistics Without Borders successfully held the second Data Science Bootcamp in partnership with the University of Lagos. This program offered participants comprehensive training in key data science tools and techniques, including data analytics, data

visualization, data mining, databases (SQL), artificial intelligence, machine learning, and deep learning. **Thirty-eight participants from academia, industry, and government gained practical, hands-on experience** with Python, Tableau, and Power BI, equipping them with the skills needed for real-world data science applications.

Other recently completed projects include a longitudinal analysis of humanitarian data in Afghanistan and survey methodology improvements for an environmental health organization in India.

**Statistics Without Borders is a great example of the type of impactful programs your donations help support.**

# Growing the Next Generation: Cultivating Diversity and Mentorship in Statistics

The two key initiatives of the [Committee on Minorities in Statistics](#)—the [Diversity Mentoring Program](#) and [ASA StatFest](#)—were a success again this year. Diversity Mentoring Program chair, Prince Allotey, highlighted the program’s impact, stating, “*The*

*biggest impact of the Diversity Mentoring Program is in creating a supportive community where underrepresented individuals can thrive through one-on-one mentoring, encouragement, networking, and career opportunities.*”

This year’s program at JSM 2024 in Portland paired 70 mentees with experienced mentors. Brittney Bailey, committee vice chair, and Therri Usher,

committee past chair, emphasized ASA StatFest’s transformative impact on students’ careers. “*As former participants of StatFest and the Diversity Mentoring Program, we’ve seen firsthand how these programs shape students’ professional paths,*” they wrote. “*Watching attendees learn, network, and form lasting connections is incredibly rewarding, and we’re proud*



Brittney Bailey

*to help build StatFest’s legacy of empowering future statisticians. Thank you for supporting this vital program!”*

The Diversity Mentoring Program and ASA StatFest are funded through donations to the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Fund.



Therri Usher

## Inaugural Lecturer Announced for Dionne Price Public Lecture Series



Claire Bowen

Claire Bowen will give the inaugural Dionne Price Public Lecture on May 1, 2025, in Washington DC. This event will be presented in a hybrid format, offering both in-person attendance and live streaming options. Registration details will be available soon. This lecture series,

created in honor of Dionne Price, aims to inspire the next generation of statisticians by highlighting the critical role of statistics in addressing today’s most pressing societal issues.

Thank you to the many ASA members and Dionne’s colleagues, friends, and family who have made it possible to launch this series, which will spotlight emerging leaders in statistics and celebrate Dionne’s enduring legacy.



# ASA DataFest: Empowering Students Through Real-World Data Challenges



From left: Tom Wang, Nathaniel Bevins, and John Valencia dive into real-world data sets at DataFest 2024, gaining hands-on experience and insights.



At DataFest 2024, participants improve their teamwork abilities.

[ASA DataFest](#) is an annual data analysis competition that brings together undergraduate students to tackle real-world data challenges. Between March and April of this year, 55 competitions took place over the course of a weekend. Teams worked intensively to analyze large, complex data sets provided by industry partners.

The event fosters a collaborative, high-energy environment in which students can apply their classroom knowledge to practical problems, enhance their data analysis skills, and gain exposure to real-world data. Guided by mentors from academia and industry, participants not only

develop technical expertise but also improve their communication and teamwork abilities.

***“Working with this large data set has really given us the experience on how to prepare ourselves for the workforce in the future,”*** said participant John Valencia.

The impact of ASA DataFest extends beyond the competition. It helps students build confidence in their analytical abilities, bridging the gap between academic learning and practical application. By providing a platform for hands-on learning and mentorship, ASA DataFest plays a critical role in shaping the next generation of data professionals.



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## Empower Tomorrow: How Your ASA Giving Day Donation Fuels the Future of Statistics

On November 22, [ASA Giving Day](#) will present an opportunity to “Empower Tomorrow Through Statistics and Data Science.” Your donations will help fund essential programs, including those highlighted in this newsletter.

Your support helps promote statistical advocacy and outreach, emphasizing the importance of data-driven decision-making in public policy. Additionally, donations help cultivate future leaders in statistics by funding scholarships and mentorship programs, inspiring young talent to pursue careers in the field. By improving K–12 education, your generosity

also helps integrate statistical concepts into classrooms, providing teachers with the resources to inspire the next generation of statisticians and data scientists.

We are also excited to bring back our popular contests, including the [ASA Chapter Challenge](#) and prize drawings.

Visit [ww2.amstat.org/givingday](http://ww2.amstat.org/givingday) to learn more.

