

On the Rise ... Women in Statistics, Data Science Focus of National Conference to Expand Community and Careers, Address Challenges

ALEXANDRIA, VA (October 19, 2016) – Recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives in applying statistical knowledge and data science skills to solving some of society’s complex challenges, the American Statistical Association (ASA) is holding its Women in Statistics and Data Science (WSDS) conference October 20–22, 2016, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

“While the number of women graduating with statistics degrees is increasing, women are still under-represented in technical fields,” said ASA President Jessica Utts. “Providing a forum where women in both sectors can share professional experiences, foster an ongoing dialogue about workforce complexities and motivate future generations greatly benefits the multidisciplinary nature of statistics and diverse research opportunities in today’s data revolution.”

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the percentage of statistics degrees awarded to women in 2014 was between 43-49%. Though occupations of “data scientist” or “statistician” have gained popularity in recent years for such factors as high salary and job satisfaction, women only made up 26% of people employed in computer and mathematical occupations in 2013, according to U.S. Census data analyzed by the American Association of University Women.

Over the course of three days, WSDS will empower female statisticians, biostatisticians and data scientists by exchanging ideas, presenting technical talks on modern and cutting-edge research, discussing ways to establish fruitful multidisciplinary collaborations and showcasing the accomplishments of successful women in the field.

Keynote speakers are the following:

- **Cynthia Clark**, former administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
- **Stacy Lindborg**, vice president of biostatistics at Biogen Idec
- **Wendy Martinez**, director of the Mathematical Statistics Research Center at the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Media can attend WSDS for free, but must pre-register by emailing jill@amstat.org.

About the American Statistical Association

The ASA is the world's largest community of statisticians and the oldest continuously operating professional science society in the United States. Its members serve in industry, government and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare. For additional information, please visit the ASA website at www.amstat.org.

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