

The DataJam Download

Official Newsletter of The DataJam



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– January 26, 2024***

DataJam has a New Website and Email Address!

The DataJam website can now be accessed at a new url: www.thedatajam.org. We can also be contacted at a new email address: datajam@thedatajam.org.

We think this will make it much easier to reach our website where there are many valuable resources for all teams working on DataJam projects. We also urge you to stop using our old email address and convert to using datajam@thedatajam.org for all correspondence.



Development of a Massachusetts Hub for The DataJam



Yunge Xiao, a Pittsburgh-trained DataJam

Mentor, moved to Boston this year to study Epidemiology at Harvard's Graduate School of Public Health. Yunge also was awarded a Newman Civic Fellowship this year (see *The DataJam Download, Issue 11, June 2023*) that

recognizes standout students who are committed to creating positive change in communities locally and around the world. As part of her Newman Fellowship work, she has been coordinating the development of a Massachusetts Hub for The DataJam!



The past 3 months, I have had the pleasure of leading the development of DataJam's Massachusetts Hub. This feat would have not been possible without exciting collaborations with several Boston-area high schools, universities, and organizations. For DataJam 2024 we are thrilled to have high school teams from **Boston Area Technical Academy**, **Brooke High School**, and **Boston Latin Academy** participating in The DataJam! Connecting to schools and recruiting new DataJam mentors has been tremendously aided by developing key partnerships.

[Boston-Area Research Initiative \(BARI\)](#): BARI, is an inter-university organization at Northeastern University that leverages data to advance social, economic, and environmental justice in the context of urban research, alongside greater Boston communities. Thank you, BARI, for sharing your resources and insights on working with urban public data, especially in the Boston-area. Special thanks to Dan O'Brien, Aida Zilkic, and Gregory Zapata.

[Bridge to Calculus \(BTC\)](#): BTC prepares high school students to take (AP) calculus courses, mainly through its signature program: an intensive six-week summer session at Northeastern University (NEU). For over 30 years, BTC has been dedicated to empowering youth STEM education in Boston's underserved communities. BTC has played an integral role in gathering DataJam mentor interest from students in NEU's Department of Mathematics. We are excited to co-create DataJam mentor workshops for Boston students with BTC! Special thanks to Bindu Veetel and Rajini Jesudason.

[Harvard Undergraduate Data Analytics Group \(HDAG\)](#): HDAG is a non-profit student organization at Harvard College dedicated to helping organizations make smarter, data-driven decisions and achieve their strategic goals by translating their data into meaningful and actionable information. Thank you HDAG for offering your expertise in the field—we are excited to work with you in putting together a DataThon for DataJam participants in the Spring! Special thanks to Chris Shen.

[Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program \(HPREP\)](#): HPREP is a high school science enrichment program led by the Harvard Medical School, and is aimed at recruiting high school students from the Boston area, particularly those from underserved and underrepresented backgrounds, into science and medicine. Thank you HPREP for your enthusiasm and support in helping us connect with greater Boston area high schools! Special thanks to Della Syau.

It has been an honor and joy to share excitement about starting a Massachusetts Hub for The DataJam with each of these partners.

**On behalf of all of us at The DataJam:
We thank you for your collaboration and look forward to working with you
as DataJam 2024 gets underway!**

Meet the Data Science Professional

Hello! I'm Dan O'Brien and I'm a Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University in Boston, MA. I am very excited about the expansion of DataJam to Boston because I have dedicated the last 13 years (and the foreseeable future) to using data science to serve the diverse communities of this city. It is wonderful that DataJam will be enabling high school students to do the same for the communities that they call home.

I practice a specific form of data science called *urban informatics*, which leverages data and technology to better understand communities ([see here for a free online textbook](#) to learn more!). Urban informatics focuses on the experiences and conditions people encounter in daily life, often attempting to explain disparities between communities. Making custom maps is a major strategy for communicating such findings. But urban informatics research often wants to go further, identifying ways we can use data to help our communities in the ways they want to be helped—to achieve true equity in the city. Because this approach can be applied to so many different topics, I have been privileged to be able to contribute to public safety, public health, transportation, education, environmental justice, and more!

In addition to pursuing research with my colleagues and students, I lead a center called the [Boston Area Research Initiative](#), or BARI. A major part of BARI's mission is to bring together the many researchers, public officials, and community leaders who are leveraging data to move Boston and the surrounding cities and towns forward. This includes an annual BARI Conference where experts of all types—from data scientists to community organizers—share their work and discuss the topics that we should use data to tackle next.

BARI is also committed to putting the tools of urban informatics in the hands of our friends and neighbors who are not academics. Just like DataJam, we offer programs for local high school students to learn more about data and new technologies—including a new program on Artificial Intelligence!—so that they can advocate for themselves and their communities and support their family, friends, and neighbors to do the same. I am thrilled that DataJam will provide an additional way for Boston's youth to contribute to the rich community of data science that is benefiting our city.

Meet the DataJam Mentors

Lauren Krest

Hello! My name is Lauren Krest, and I am a freshman at the University of Pittsburgh! I recently declared my major in Law, Criminal Justice, and Society under the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences with a certificate in German, and I'm very excited to be mentoring a DataJam team this year!

I was completely unfamiliar with DataJam and statistics before I took this class. I had taken calculus in high school, but not statistics. I loved my calculus class, however, and wanted to branch out and try different types of math. This is my first year at Pitt, and I decided to dive right into big data and DataJam! Even though I'm not planning on studying statistics, I wanted to



continue studying math, and I was excited about the prospect of becoming a mentor and helping high schoolers cultivate their love for statistics and math.

Outside of my major, I also like to study languages. Alongside my certificate in German, I'm also studying Hebrew at Pitt, and I'm conversational in French, although I haven't taken any French classes at Pitt yet. I spent my senior year of high school abroad in Germany with a host family about an hour outside the city of Hannover. I loved visiting the Weihnachtsmärkte and exploring my German town! Outside of the classroom, you can find me reading, listening to Hozier, and playing guitar!

I hope to be able to help high schoolers build their confidence and appreciation for math and statistics. I love the analytical side of statistics, particularly with regards to big data, and I find it even more interesting and rewarding because of the real-world applications. DataJam is rewarding because of the community impact of every project. I'm excited to see what my team and the other teams come up with!

NEW Section! DataJam Team Updates

In this issue of The DataJam Download, we are proud to introduce "DataJam Team Updates"! Starting with the January 2024 issue of the DataJam Download, we will be adding a new section to the monthly newsletter written by DataJam Teams. This section will provide space in the newsletter for DataJam teams to write a short paragraph about the project they are working on and provide one figure. Our goal is for teams across the country to have more communication about their DataJam projects with each other. If your team would like to provide a DataJam Team Update for any issue of the newsletter, please email us at datajam@thedatajam.org

DataJam Timeline for 2023-2024

On the DataJam page of the website the new [2024 DataJam Timeline](#) has been posted. Click [here](#) to see the Timeline.

- **Proposals due Fri., Dec. 8, 2023 with an EXTENDED DEADLINE UNTIL FRI., JAN. 26, 2024**
- **Posters will be due Fri., March 29, 2024**
- **2024 DataJam Finale will be Thur., April 25, 2024**

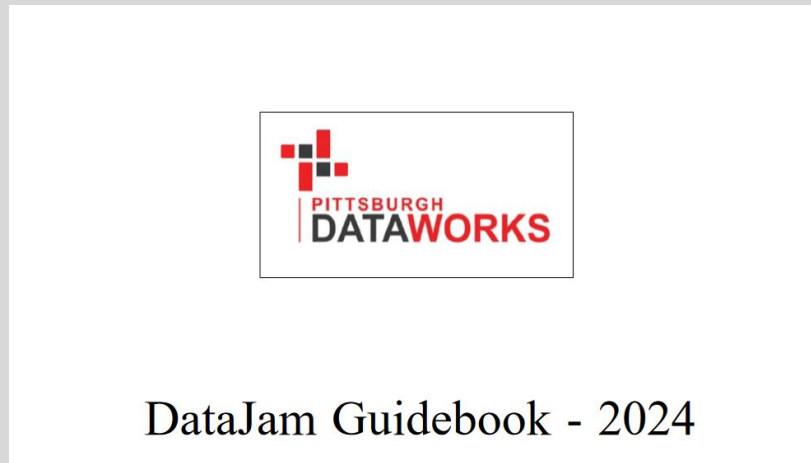
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023 -
FRIDAY JANUARY 26, 2024**

DataJam Proposals Due

The DataJam will review proposals submitted on a rolling basis, with feedback provided to teams within a couple weeks of their proposal submission. Teams should email their DataJam proposal to DataJam@pghdataworks.org. Use the template provided in the DataJam Guidebook, located at the bottom of this page.

Make sure the names of the team members (there must be at least 2 team members, but often are 5-8 members), and non-school email addresses are provided (note many schools block emails to student school emails from outside email addresses). Once team members have been identified, you and the students will be invited to join an Edtera Group for DataJam 2024. This is an online platform that every team can access on an internet browser where they can communicate with their team members about their project and also communicate with DataJam mentors to get help with their project.

The instructions for writing the DataJam Proposal are on page 5 of the [DataJam 2024 Guide Book](#), and a template for the one page DataJam Proposal is on page 6. The guidebook can be downloaded from the DataJam page of the Pittsburgh DataWorks website.



Seeking inspiration for your DataJam project topic? Explore the [past DataJam projects from 2015 to 2023](#), available at the bottom of the DataJam page, along with links to all the posters. Additionally, check out the [DataSet Guides](#) on the DataSets page for more ideas.

2023

2023 DATAJAM POSTERS

<p>Avonworth Something in the air</p>	<p>Central Dauphin: Team 2 Natural disasters and climate change</p>	<p>North Allegheny: Team 1 Standardized testing: A reflection on intelligence or economic environment?</p>	<p>Passaic Academy for Science & Engineering: Team 1 Virtual vs. reality</p>
<p>Bethel Park: Team 2 Fast food restaurant location density vs. obesity rate</p>	<p>Hampton Improvements to Pittsburgh's city parking lot distribution</p>	<p>North Allegheny: Team 2 Close calls with high cholesterol</p>	<p>Passaic Academy for Science & Engineering: Team 2 Empty streets, cleaner sheets</p>
<p>Bethel Park: Team 4 The effects of social media on teenage sleeping habits</p>	<p>Hempfield Is there a correlation between race, income level, or proximity to fast food restaurants with diabetes rates in Pennsylvania counties?</p>	<p>North Allegheny: Team 4 Diversity: The correlation of diversity and publications</p>	<p>Passaic Academy for Science & Engineering: Team 3 Factors affecting air quality in NY state</p>
<p>Boys & Girls Club of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh regional transit - Vehicle age and why it matters</p>	<p>Keystone Oaks: Team 1 Café GPA</p>	<p>Norwin Redlining: A broader perspective</p>	<p>Passaic Academy for Science & Engineering: Team 4 Correlation between income & crime in NJ counties within minority groups</p>
<p>Carlynton How technology affects teens in car crashes</p>	<p>Keystone Oaks: Team 2 Cows vs. cars</p>	<p>Oakland Catholic Detention or detainment: Does higher enrollment in schools impact crime rates?</p>	<p>South Hunterdon Effects of cancel culture on the attention a celebrity gets on social media</p>
<p>Central Dauphin: Team 1 Improving Central Dauphin's (G)IEP Program</p>	<p>Maple Grove Eurasian Millfoil's abundance in the central & south basins of Chautauqua lake in proportion to other invasive species after being sprayed with herbicides</p>	<p>Pala/Torrey Pines Comparing western bluebird populations throughout Southern California</p>	

We are looking forward to DataJam 2024!

We Hope You Are Too!

Email us at datajam@thedatajam.org when you are ready to start working with a DataJam Mentor!