

Summary on “Organizational Change: Building Data Science Capacity to Advance Your Mission”

The Big Data Regional Innovation Hubs, in collaboration with the White House Data Cabinet Policy Working Group, Office of Governmentwide Policy, National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and IDEO, hosted an interactive workshop focused on “Organizational Change: Building Data Science Capacity to Advance Your Mission.” The event convened over 125 thought leaders and data practitioners from industry, academia, nonprofits, and government to share lessons learned and best practices. Lightning talks from the Chief Analytics Officer of New York City, Chief Innovation Officer of Internet2, and Executive Vice President of RTI International were punctuated by “vote-with-your-feet” focused discussion and facilitated activities to capture participants’ challenges and opportunities for collaboration.

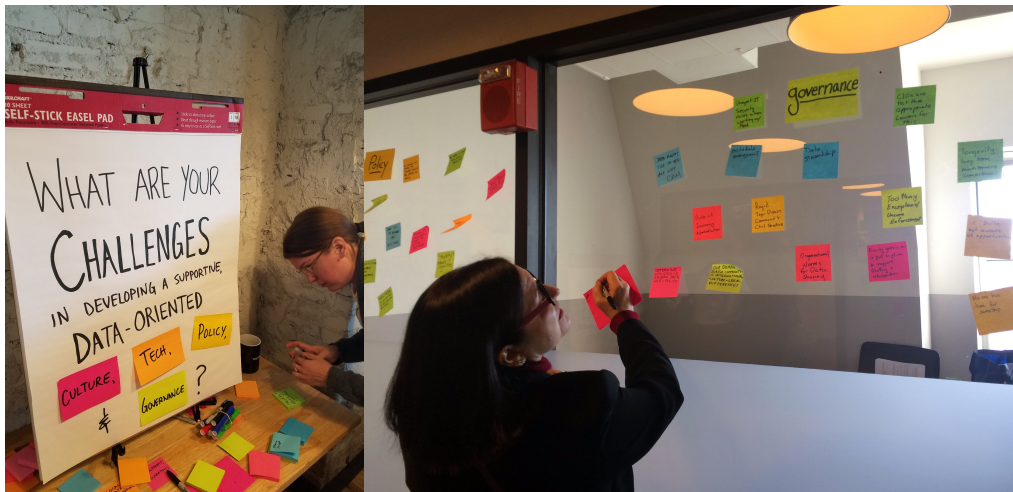
Participants included innovators from across the country, including Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Boise, Chapel Hill, Atlanta, Tulsa, New York, Newark, and Raleigh. Many highlighted the interactive format as contributing to the success of the event, noting that it encouraged attendees “to be creative and understand the ‘big picture’ data ecosystem. In a forthcoming blog post, speaker Tim Gabel of RTI International notes that he found this approach to be “a particularly effective way to trigger excellent discussion.... [that] helped illuminate the variety of perspectives in the room. It also set the stage for follow-up networking and connection building.”

In addition to input from the workshop attendees, feedback on building data science capacity was collected from over 50 additional Big Data Hubs community members via an online survey ([Big Data Innovation Hubs - Data Science Capacity Building Questionnaire](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/766SYZB): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/766SYZB>). The outputs from the workshop, combined with the survey responses, will form the foundation of a white paper to be published in collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science & Technology Policy Fellowship Big Data Affinity Group. The white paper will share data as well as case studies about how organizations from the public and private sector build capacity for data science through efforts in technology, policy, governance, and culture. To join the conversation, use #BDHubs #datascicapacity and contribute to the survey via the above link.

Many thanks to our co-hosts:



White House Data Cabinet Policy Working Group



Participants both online and at the workshop contributed their insights into challenges in developing supportive, data-oriented culture, tech, policy and governance.



Speaker Amen Ra Mashariki (New York City Mayor's Office of Data Analytics) spoke on using analytics for proactive, rather than reactive governing.



Speaker Florence Hudson (Internet2) shared insights from her time leading IBM Data Analytics Business Unit.



The event also featured “vote-with-your-feet” focused discussion and facilitated activities to capture participants’ challenges and opportunities for collaboration.



Event organizers René Bastón (Northeast Big Data Innovation Hub), Meredith Lee (West Big Data Innovation Hub), Hailey Brewer (IDEO), Rebekah Ryvola (graphic facilitator), Katie Naum (Northeast Big Data Innovation Hub), Courtenay Lewis (graphic facilitator) and Peter Olson (IDEO).



Fen Zhao (NSF) concludes the event with reflections on what was learned and on how the Big Data Hubs might contribute to accelerating and scaling data science capacity.



Graphic facilitators Rebekah Ryvola and Courtenay Lewis provided a dynamic visual summary of the workshop proceedings.