Call For Participation: Northeast Student Data Corps

The mission of the Northeast Big Data Innovation Hub (Northeast Hub) is to build and strengthen partnerships across industry, academia, nonprofits, and government to address societal and scientific challenges, spur economic development, and accelerate innovation in the national big data ecosystem. Learn more about the Northeast Hub at nebigdatahub.org.

The Northeast Hub is delighted to announced the creation of the *Northeast Student Data Corps* (NSDC) and launch our search for the Northeast Student Data Corps Founding Committee. Full application details are available at nebigdatahub.org/seedfund. Apply at https://bit.ly/NSDC-apply.

What is the Northeast Student Data Corps?

The Northeast Student Data Corps (NSDC) is a community-developed initiative of the Northeast Big Data Hub that will teach data science fundamentals to students across the northeastern United States, with a special focus on underserved institutions and students. The NSDC community will include leaders from academia, industry and non-profits to enable the pedagogical approach and materials, and students who will form a community of support, working together to learn and teach data science online with their peers from universities, 2 and 4 year colleges, and minority-serving institutions.

Northeast Student Data Corps activities will include:

1. Building a curriculum leveraging academia and industry generated pedagogy and materials to teach data science fundamentals, as well as translational data science with pertinent use cases. These use cases will be generated in collaboration with the Northeast Hub's focus areas of Health, Urban to Rural Communities, and Responsible Data Science: Security + Privacy + Ethics, with the Corps itself aligning with the Northeast Hub's Education + Data Literacy focus area.

2. Building a Northeast Student Data Corps Peer Instructors team of graduate and undergraduate students and post-docs, who will teach data science remotely to students who do not have access to data science programs. A special focus includes outreach to smaller institutions, and minority serving institutions (MSIs), including Primarily Black Institutions (PBIs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs). The Northeast Student Data Corps will leverage, and perhaps help develop, the curriculum from project activity 1.

3. Building an outreach committee to identify and enable collaborators interested in engaging the NSDC to increase data science education and knowledge. This may include higher ed institutions and students interested in teaching or learning data science through the NSDC, and

community and government institutions with data science use cases of importance to the Northeast, providing real-world examples to teach practical, translational data science.

The interactions between data scientists, students, academic leaders, researchers and communities will be mutually beneficial, supporting transfer of data science concepts and methods to local communities, while providing insights and practical experience to participating data scientists and data science students. This partnership between communities and data scientists can help produce a better workforce-ready cohort of data scientists, by providing Northeast Student Data Corps participants practical experience with data science in "real-world" settings. The community fostered among NSDC participants will build stronger networks among and opportunities for institutions and people of all backgrounds.

What opportunities are available for members of the Northeast Student Data Corps Founding Committee?

To better build in community insights and perspectives from the start, the Northeast Big Data Hub invites community members to apply to join the Founding Committee of the Northeast Student Data Corps. Starting in 2020, the Founding Committee will be responsible for planning, designing, and launching the Northeast Student Data Corps activities described above, in partnership with leadership of the Northeast Big Data Hub. This is an opportunity to contribute to the creation of a groundbreaking and inclusive new program in data science. A modest honorarium is offered to Founding Committee members in recognition of their service to the community.

How do I apply to be a member of the Northeast Student Data Corps Founding Committee?

The Northeast Big Data Hub welcomes applications from undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, faculty, and leaders from academia and non-profit organizations based in the Northeastern United States. Applications will be considered in two rounds, with deadlines of August 31st and October 1st, 2020.

Full application details are available at nebigdatahub.org/seedfund
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Contact seedfund@nebigdatahub.org with any questions about the program.