

The DataJam Download

Official Newsletter of the Pittsburgh DataWorks



News Article on the National Expansion of the DataJam

Get to know your way around the Pittsburgh DataWorks website

Catching up with DataJam Mentors

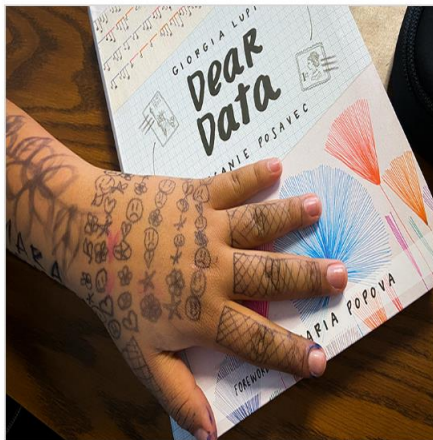
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DataJam Timeline for 2022-2023

News Article on the National Expansion of the DataJam

DataJam Goes National

by Ken Chiacchia | Aug 31, 2022 | News



Student data-science competition adds teams outside Pittsburgh region, including from California Native American youth center and New Jersey schools

The first year of the DataJam being offered nationally was last year, for the 2022 DataJam! Ken Chiacchia, a reporter for our affiliate Pittsburgh Supercomputer Center, wrote a wonderful news article highlighting this expansion and some of the projects undertaken by the new teams! Check it out on the homepage of the Pittsburgh Dataworks website or by clicking [here](#).

Get to know your way around the Pittsburgh DataWorks website!

Pittsburgh DataWorks website (pghdataworks.org) has a very large number of resources to help DataJam teams with all aspects of their DataJam project. Now is a great time to get to know the website so you can find these resources easily throughout the year.

A good way to get started is on the home page of the website under the header you'll find a [link](#) to a video called "A Walkthrough of the Pittsburgh DataWorks Website". This is a short 7-minute video that will show you where resources are located.

A quick overview of some of the website is here:

[Home Page](#)

- DataJam News
- DataJam Newsletter

[About Page](#)

- An overview of what the DataJam is and what high schools are participating
- The Pittsburgh DataWorks Advisory Board
- Partners and Sponsors of the DataJam

[DataJam Page](#)

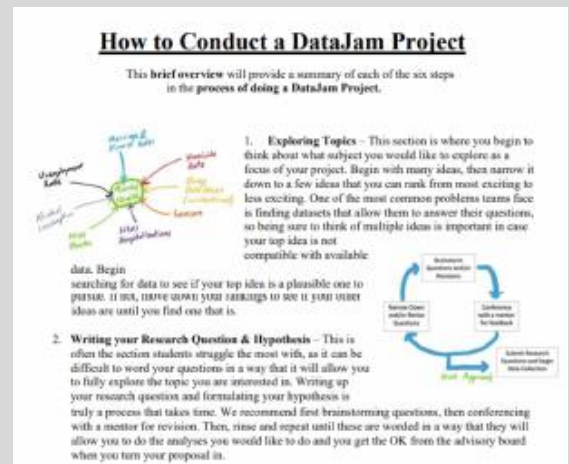
- 7 Videos to give you an introduction to the DataJam
- *How to Conduct a DataJam Project* Guide
- *Writing an Effective DataJam Research Question* Guide
- *How to De-Stress the DataJam* Guide
- The Timeline for the 2023 DataJam
- Completed DataJam Projects (with posters you can download)
- The DataJam Guidebook

[Resources Page](#)

- *Dataset* Guides (these will help you with how to find a dataset)
- *Show me the data!* (more places to find datasets)
- Resources for teaching you how to use Google Sheets, Excel, Tableau, R-Studio, Python & GitHub, Social Explorer and how to prepare presentations

[Mentors Page](#)

- Meet the DataJam Mentors and read their biographies



Catching up with DataJam Mentors

Jackson Filosa



Hi everyone! My name is Jackson Filosa, and I am a senior at the University of Pittsburgh double majoring in statistics and English writing. I'm very passionate about using data to solve problems and communicating the results in a meaningful way. Outside of the classroom I love to go to Pitt football games, read, and play soccer.

I got involved with the DataJam my sophomore year by taking Dr. Cameron's course "Data Jam: Using Big Data for Community Good." It opened my eyes to both the exciting potential of data science and the incredible importance of organizations such as Pittsburgh DataWorks seeking to create a more ethical, inclusive, and equitable field. The phrase "big data" sometimes carries a negative connotation as people conjure up images of boring spreadsheets, dense math problems, or invasive advertisements that eerily pop up the thing you were just talking about. However, the DataJam is proof that data science is for everyone, and whether it is analyzing the effects of redlining in Pittsburgh or examining the disparate effects of COVID-19 by county income, it can be used to make an immediate positive impact in society.

As a mentor for the DataJam I have had the privilege of working with inspiring teams from Pittsburgh to New Jersey unlocking the power of data science to create amazing projects. The summer between my sophomore and junior year of college, I received a Community Research Fellowship from the Pitt Honors College and worked closely with Dr. Cameron and Brian Macdonald to create a series of educational data science videos called "The Data Diaries." The following fall I completed an internship with Pittsburgh DataWorks creating more videos and advising other DataJam mentors. Of course, I am also a DataJam mentor myself!

This past summer, I worked as a Data Science Intern for PricewaterhouseCoopers, a "Big 4" accounting and business consulting firm. I used data science to build recommendation models for an internal software product that makes work easier for people around the firm. Some of my past projects have included analyzing NFL Combine Data to predict rookie quarterback and wide receiver success after college, analyzing factors contributing to five-star book reviews (I'm a huge book nerd!), and investigating predictive factors of hate crimes within United States cities. Throughout it all, the DataJam has been one of the most formative and enriching parts of my college experience.

Anthony Lucchiti



Hi all! My name is Anthony Lucchiti and I am a senior at the University of Pittsburgh studying Computer Science and Applied Statistics. I've been involved in the DataJam for over a year now, and I am looking forward to another season of high school teams solving problems through big data!

Participating in the DataJam undoubtedly equips students with crucial skills needed to work successfully with data. In my opinion, all industries are becoming increasingly dependent on data-driven solutions, yet many high school curriculums fail to include these ever-important skills. The DataJam seeks to fill this gap, and this is one my biggest motivators for serving as a DataJam mentor. Equally important are the soft skills that high school students learn from engaging in a DataJam project, namely communication and problem-solving skills. The art of learning how to communicate with others to solve a problem is something that can't be taught; rather, it is learned from experience. The DataJam offers an amazing opportunity for high school students to strengthen these skills while gaining invaluable exposure to data analytics!

The skills high school teams gain while participating in the DataJam are equally gained as a mentor, and I've been grateful to have opportunities to use them in real-world settings. Last summer, I worked as a Data Science Intern for U.S. Steel Corporation in Pittsburgh using big data to predict how scrap additions in the steel making process impact the chemical makeup of the final product. U.S. Steel is over 120 years old, yet they still use cutting-edge data science strategies to better position themselves in the market! More recently, I participated in Capital One's Technology Internship Program this past summer working on a team to improve an internal application saving over 24,000 hours a year!

If you were to ask me what my most valuable takeaway was from these experiences, I would say learning how to collaborate with a team to communicate and solve a problem. In other words, I would argue the DataJam is an opportunity to train yourself in the skills most essential to a career in any industry. Even better, the DataJam strengthens crucial analytical, reasoning, and presentational skills that are sure to be an asset regardless of domain of studies or work.

My hope is that this writing communicates my excitement about the DataJam and the many benefits students receive by working with a team to produce a data-driven analysis. I look forward to seeing your future engagement with the DataJam, and please reach out with any questions!

Meet the New Mentors

ANUSHA PANDEY

Hello! I am Anusha Pandey, majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Data Analytics at Caldwell University, NJ. On top of my work at school, I have experience working with independent projects. I recently completed my Honors Project in visualizing trends of real estate pricing of Northeastern states of the USA and made a walkthrough guide of data visualization available to both CS and non-CS students at Caldwell University. Starting out a project can be intimidating. I was in the same shoes last semester, but my advisor helped me gain confidence in my skill. I hope I can also provide the same rewarding experience to my mentee, and I am very much looking forward to being a DataJam mentor.



NISHANT POKHREL

Hello everyone, Namaste! I am Nishant Pokhrel. I am an international student from Nepal majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Data Analytics at Caldwell University, New Jersey. I am a student vice-president of Phi Kappa Phi Caldwell Chapter. I enjoy working with data, innovative technology, and management. I am excited about the DataJam project and look forward to meeting new people and learning more about the importance of data in our life. I genuinely believe data is the new oil.

CONNOR WOODS

Hello everyone! My name is Connor Woods and I am a Financial Economics major and Data Analytics minor at Caldwell University. I am a member of the Caldwell University Baseball team and the National Honors Society of Leadership and Success. I really enjoy working with big data and creating data visualizations to help look for industry trends. I am very excited to be a part of the DataJam project and look forward to further networking in my career path as well as learning more about data. I can't wait to share my experiences with my mentee.



See the DataJam Timeline for 2022-2023

On the DataJam page of the website the new 2023 DataJam Timeline has been posted. Click [here](#) to see the Timeline.

- **Proposals due Fri., Dec. 2, 2022**
- **Feedback will be received by Fri., Dec. 16, 2022**
- **Posters will be due Fri., March 31, 2023**
- **2023 DataJam Finale will be Thur., April 27, 2023**

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MID-AUGUST THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Schedule a DataJam Presentation at Your School

DataJam mentors are available to give a 15-minute presentation at your school to inform students about what the DataJam is, how to form a team, and what is involved in participating in the DataJam. Presentations can be scheduled by requesting a presentation at Pittsburghdatajam@pghdataworks.org. Presentations will be given by zoom. Alternatively, watch the 15-min DataJam Mentor Overview to the DataJam video found at the top of this page.

Register to be a 2023 DataJam Team

It is easy to register your team. Send an email to PittsburghDataJam@pghdataworks.org to let us know you have a team that would like to compete in the 2023 DataJam. Include: (1) the name of your school or group, (2) the name, email address and phone number for the team advisor (a

We are looking forward to DataJam 2023! **We Hope You Are Too!**

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