

Funding Request Sample

Dear Potential Donor,

I am excited to announce ASA DataFest 2015 which will take place over the [date] weekend!

ASA DataFest is a data analysis challenge where students working in teams attack a large and complex surprise dataset over one weekend. The event is sponsored by the American Statistical Association. The main goal of the competition is to get students to collaborate (and compete) on a data analysis question that is likely beyond the scope of what they see in their classes. The judging is based not only on the computational and the analytical skills of the competitors, but also how well they communicate their results in a short amount of time. Further details of the competition as well as recaps of past DataFests can be found at [website].

ASA DataFest has grown rapidly over the past few years, and this year parallel events are being held at four other locations with participation from a total of [XX] universities, and we are happy to join the ranks.

Broadly, DataFest has been a very effective avenue to provide students the chance to interact with peers from a variety of majors and institutions.

I am writing to you to see if [you/your organization] would be interested co-sponsoring ASA DataFest 2015, contributing to the pool of funds which will be used for prizes, t-shirts, food, etc. throughout the event. All sponsors will be listed on the DataFest website and the promotional materials. We would also be happy to provide any further information to the students about [you/your organization] as well

In addition, if you (or other interested members of iiD) are available throughout the event we would love to have you stop by as a visitor or a judge for the event. I envision the visitors' role to be interacting with and mentoring the students, brainstorming with them, and providing statistical, computational, or application specific guidance for a couple hours anytime during the event. In the past StatSci PhD students and a few faculty members have assumed this role, and I can tell from experience that it is quite rewarding to get a chance to chat with the students as they put their creativity and analytical skills to use. My goal is to get a broader range of visitors this year to help communicate to the students the interdisciplinary nature of the event, and also to give them a chance to interact with as many people as possible. If interested in judging, note that the presentations&judging will take place ~2-5pm on Sunday of the event.

Please let me know if there is further information I can provide, and I hope that you might at a minimum stop by the event and get a chance to meet the students or watch their presentations.

Best,
[XX]

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