



2026 ASA PRESIDENT JERI MULROW

## A MESSAGE FROM RON WASSERSTEIN

As we begin a new year, I want to pause and thank you for the steady commitment you bring to the American Statistical Association. The new year is always a moment for reflection, and as I look back on 2025, I am struck by how much we accomplished together and how deeply your support continues to shape the direction of our work.

Under the leadership of our 2025 president, Ji-Hyun Lee, the ASA focused on strengthening connection, contribution, and evidence across our programs and partnerships. Throughout the year, we advanced initiatives highlighted in our 2025 in Review, including expanded student engagement through DataFest and StatFest, continued investment in travel awards and scholarships, and a strong presence in conversations about the role of federal statistical agencies and trustworthy data. Lee's presidency reinforced the idea that statistics is not only a technical discipline but a public service, and your support ensured the ASA could lead with credibility and purpose.

As we transition into 2026, I am excited to welcome Jeri Mulrow as our new ASA president. Her vision is "Communities in Action," a theme she has shared through ASA communications and her recent conversation on the *Practical Significance* podcast. She has spoken thoughtfully about translating statistical expertise into real-world impact, supporting practitioners across sectors, and ensuring the ASA remains a welcoming professional home. These priorities align closely with donor-funded efforts that support professional development, mentoring, and cross-sector collaboration.

Programs such as Statistical Moments; our expanding digital engagement; and our continued focus on bringing people together through conferences, publications, and public outreach are gaining momentum thanks to your investment. This moment of leadership change is an exciting opportunity to build on strong foundations, carry forward new ideas, and deepen the impact of the work we do together. I look forward to sharing what is ahead and continuing this work together.

RON WASSERSTEIN  
ASA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A Year of Exceptional  
Growth in Individual Giving



# Board Update: Advancing ASA Priorities with Your Support

As 2025 drew to a close, the American Statistical Association Board of Directors gathered on November 21–22 in Alexandria, Virginia, for its final formal meeting of the year. Under the leadership of President Ji-Hyun Lee, the board tackled a broad agenda that will shape the ASA's direction in 2026 and beyond. Your support as donors and volunteers directly enables much of this work and helps transform strategic ideas into tangible impact.

At the heart of the discussion were the following key areas in which donor-funded programs are already making a difference and where your continued involvement will be pivotal:

## Strategic Growth and Education Initiatives

The board reviewed the ASA's strategic direction, with a focus on enhancing the diversity and reach of ASA activities and educational programs. This includes strengthening student engagement; expanding professional development opportunities; and increasing fellowship, award, and scholarship offerings. These programs rely on donor generosity to thrive, and your investments help us attract and retain the next generation of statisticians and data scientists.

## Meeting and Conference Planning for 2026 and Beyond

Planning for upcoming ASA events such as the Symposium on Data Science and Statistics, Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference, and Joint Statistical Meetings was highlighted in board reports. These gatherings provide crucial platforms for learning, networking, and showcasing groundbreaking work, and many travel awards and student scholarships help ensure broad participation. Supporting these programs amplifies the reach and relevance of ASA events.

## Governance and Bylaw Updates

The board discussed bylaws and association governance with an eye toward long-term stability, inclusivity, and responsiveness to member needs. These discussions sustain the health of the organization and preserve the mission you help fund: advancing statistics as a science and profession.

## Fundraising, Headquarters, and Operational Sustainability

The board approved moving forward on a lease for a new ASA headquarters, contributing to operational stability and continuity for our nonprofit home in Alexandria. Strengthening the financial base ensures donor contributions are leveraged efficiently and responsibly in service of core activities.

## New Opportunities for Engagement

The board also highlighted new avenues for volunteer involvement and member engagement, such as the formation of the Statistical Storytellers group and expanded award nomination opportunities. These initiatives support the broader ASA mission in creative ways and create additional touch points for donor and volunteer participation.

## Why This Matters to You

Board decisions such as these set the course for the ASA's programmatic and strategic work and reflect priorities many of you have helped champion: expanding access to ASA resources; supporting students and young professionals; and elevating the visibility of statistical science within society. Your investment empowers the ASA to build stronger communities, foster educational excellence, and convene leaders across sectors whose work depends on sound data and credible evidence.

Thank you for your support. With your continued partnership, the ASA enters 2026 with momentum; clear priorities; and meaningful opportunities to engage, inspire, and serve.

# TELLING OUR STORIES

Our profession has incredible stories to tell.

[WATCH NOW](#)

The newest installment of the Telling Our Stories video series premiered live on ASA Giving Day at the conclusion of the ASA Board of Directors November meeting. The video was especially meaningful with Albert Lee joining as a special guest for the viewing.

In this installment, Lee reflects on the role of statisticians as communicators, connectors, and stewards of public trust, drawing on his own experience in public service. He shares how statistical work often informs high-stakes decisions, yet can lose its effectiveness when it is not clearly communicated or grounded in the realities of the communities it affects.

Lee emphasizes that impact comes from pairing

technical rigor with context and plain language. He challenges statisticians to move beyond traditional technical audiences and translate their work into stories that decision-makers and the public can understand and trust. In doing so, he highlights how thoughtful communication strengthens institutions, supports better decisions, and reinforces the vital role of statistics in public life.

The Telling Our Stories series continues to underscore why statistics matter in public life and how individuals can shape understanding and impact. We encourage you to [watch and share this latest video](#)—particularly with educators, students, and colleagues—to help extend its reach and amplify its message.



This 2026 presidential initiative aims to build partnerships between statisticians, data scientists, and community organizations to tackle shared challenges through data-informed approaches. Working together, these collaborations will bring analytical expertise alongside deep community knowledge to support evidence-based decision-making. The goal is to strengthen connections between our professional communities and the communities in which we live by working on problems that matter. [Share](#) your ideas with us!

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



On November 21, 2025, ASA Giving Day brought our community together, raising **\$70,414** from **224** donors to support scholarships and travel awards, programs such as ASA DataFest and StatFest, section and interest group activities, advocacy initiatives, and much more. The contests were a big hit, energizing sections, chapters, and donors while helping generate additional contributions throughout the day. Early in the morning, one donor shared how ASA opportunities shaped the careers of young professionals, a sentiment echoed by many as gifts poured in. This remarkable show of support demonstrates the collective strength of our statistical community.

# Advocacy and Action

## The Latest in ASA Science Policy and Advocacy Activities

Throughout 2025, the American Statistical Association remained deeply engaged in defending the strength, independence, and future of the US federal statistical system. A central focus of this work was the release of **The Nation's Data at Risk: 2025 Report** on December 10, which documents growing threats to the federal statistical agencies, including staffing losses, constrained budgets, reduced capacity for innovation, and increasing pressures that undermine professional autonomy. The report makes clear that demand for high-quality federal data continues to grow, while the system's ability to meet those needs is under serious strain.

The ASA continues to elevate these findings with policymakers, stakeholders, and coalition partners to reinforce that federal statistics are essential national infrastructure, supporting economic stability, research, and democratic decision-making.

This work is part of the ASA project to **assess and monitor the health of the federal statistical agencies** and was supported in 2025 by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and California Community Foundation. The other project resources include the following:

- **The Nation's Data at a Crossroads**, our July 31, 2025, status report on the statistical agency developments for the first half of 2025
- Our **Near Real-Time Monitoring** of statistical agency developments
- Our monthly Count on Stats summaries for **November** and **December**.

The ASA also launched a **project to re-imagine the National Center for Education Statistics**.

With support from the Lumina and William T. Grant Foundation, the project goal is to publish recommendations in spring 2026 for discussion and consideration. To inform those recommendations, the project team is hosting small roundtables with key audiences.

In October, they hosted a **roundtable** with representatives from think tanks and data policy groups. They are also considering roundtables with NCES's broad stakeholder community (e.g., data users, contractors, researchers), representatives of education policy groups and education policy-focused foundations, and former leadership of NCES and other statistical agencies.

In addition, the ASA continues to support collaborative efforts to **modernize and strengthen the federal statistical system through expert meetings and cross-sector dialogue**.

Multi-stakeholder meetings brought together leaders from government, academia, philanthropy, and the statistical community to assess current risks, identify priorities for modernization, and explore pathways to rebuild capacity across the system. These discussions reinforce the need for sustained investment, coordination across agencies, and strong leadership to ensure the system can adapt to evolving data needs. The group plans to release a strategy memo for broader consideration in early 2026.

Together, these efforts reflect the ASA's leadership in advancing evidence-based policy, defending professional statistical standards, and ensuring that trusted data remains available to serve the public good.



## ASA CAREER CONNECT

ASA Career Connect continues to grow as a valuable member resource. Designed to support statisticians and data scientists at every career stage, Career Connect brings together curated job opportunities, career insights, and professional resources in a centralized platform. It strengthens the ASA's role as a trusted partner in career development while connecting employers with highly qualified talent.

Career Connect also supports the ASA's long-term financial health through employer postings and sponsored content, allowing the association to reinvest in programs that benefit students, early-career professionals, and the broader community.

**Donors and volunteers are invited to contribute by sharing career insights and professional perspectives via short articles on Career Connect. Please contact Amanda Malloy.**

Visit ASA Career Connect to explore opportunities or consider contributing an article. Your experience can help guide others while supporting the future of the ASA.

### Welcome, Kristin Mohebbi!



KRISTIN MOHEBBI, ASA

If her name sounds familiar, it is because you have probably seen it pop up in your inbox over the years, usually with a reminder about abstracts, session chairs, or accreditation reviews. Now we are delighted to officially introduce Kristin Mohebbi, the newest member of the ASA's development team, as the donor and partner relations officer.

Mohebbi has been part of the ASA family for seven years, beginning as a meeting planner and most recently serving as manager of the Office of the Executive Director. She knows the organization inside and out and brings a deep appreciation for the people who make the ASA's work possible. When she is not at work, she is chasing three kids—all under the age of five—racing to finish the next book for her local book club, or dreaming up the next family adventure.

In her new role, Mohebbi is excited to work closely with donors and partners to strengthen programs and help bring big ideas to life. She is especially looking forward to building relationships, hearing what matters most to you, and finding new ways to ensure your support has lasting impact.

### Career Resources



#### Becoming a Professor: The Outs

For statisticians and data scientists in the professional world, STATr@k is a resource for navigating the early stages of a career. It's the American Statistician for students, recent graduates, and early-career professionals that offers a wealth of information on the profession.



ASA Engagement Lights  
Sociologist's Career Path



Building a Career in  
Machine Learning and  
Explainable AI: Insights  
from My Journey



Networking: It's About the  
Journey, Not the  
Destination

# RON'S

## D A D - A - B Y T E S

### DadJokes by Ron

Scientists recently combined the DNA of a cheetah and a crab. Things went sideways real fast.

I got a job in a fire hydrant factory. But you couldn't park anywhere near the place.

They buried the man who invented Tetris. The whole cemetery disappeared.

I would have put \$5 on the Dalai Lama. If it was a Tibetan man.