

Careers in teaching statistics: Preparing to teach at the next level

Carolyn Cuff, Westminster College

Paul Roback, St. Olaf College

USCOTS 2007 Breakout Session

Abstract: This session is geared toward graduate students considering careers in statistics education and those new to statistics education, especially at the undergraduate level. We will explore what has attracted us to statistics and to education, what obstacles we have faced along the way, and where we see ourselves in the future. Most importantly, we will explore the biggest questions and uncertainties we face in preparing to teach at the next level. Veteran statistics educators will be available to share their experiences and advice, and individuals will develop action plans for addressing their concerns and getting where they want to be.

Expected outcome: Participants will become aware of early career challenges faced and the best career advice received by veteran statistics educators. Participants will then develop an action plan for moving successfully to the next step in their careers. In particular, participants will develop and/or refine their teaching philosophy statement.

Outline of Workshop

- I. Quick survey of participants followed by small group discussion - Rewards of teaching, goals with students, and career aspirations.
- II. Presentation and discussion - A recent survey of veteran statistics educators regarding the best career advice they ever received, mistakes made that they vowed never to repeat, etc.
- III. Small group working session - Writing an effective and personal teaching philosophy statement.