

Statistics Education Research Cluster:

Goal: To bring together individuals interested in becoming part of a collaborative statistics education research community. We invite people who may or may not teach statistics and who come from various disciplinary backgrounds. Cluster participants will participate in an orientation meeting on Thursday afternoon prior to the beginning of USCOTS, will have lunches together each day, attend research breakout sessions at USCOTS, and participate in a post USCOTS session on Saturday afternoon.

Clusters of about four participants will be formed and will be mentored for two years by member of the CAUSE Research Advisory Board. They will be expected to follow a plan that guides them to explore and define a problem of mutual interest, to read and discuss the research literature that informs this problem, to prepare a written literature review, and to design and carry out a collaborative research study that informs the teaching and learning of statistics. For information on the experience of the previous research clusters, see (JSM Paper).

Information for Prospective Members of the CAUSEmos Research Cluster

*Note: Members of the Research Cluster will be notified of their acceptance no later than **April 15 2009**.*

1. HOW YOU MAY BENEFIT BY PARTICIPATION IN THE RESEARCH CLUSTER

- Be part of a collaborative research group that will focus on a question of interest to you.
- Become familiar with important literature in statistics education research.
- Gain knowledge and experience on conducting statistics education research.
- Receive advice and mentoring on conducting statistics education research.
- Experience a rich and productive collaborative research program.
- Experience the entire research process from learning about and conceptualizing the problem, to conducting the study to analyzing the data to presenting and/or publishing results.
- Contribute to the knowledge base that informs improved teaching and learning of statistics.
- Be involved with a larger infrastructure for statistics education and research (INQERI Project)

2. WHAT YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO DO

A. Prior to USCOTS (between May 15 and USCOTS)

- Attend a pre-USCOTS Research Cluster meeting beginning at noon on Thursday, June 25. (2:30-5 PM).
- Read selected papers on educational and statistics education research prior to USCOTS and be prepared to discuss these at the pre-USCOTS Research Cluster meeting. (Note: these papers will be posted by April 1 so that you may read them at any time.).
- Learn what the requirements are at your institution in terms of what is required to conduct a classroom research study on your students. Does your school have an Institutional Review Board, what are the different categories of approval (exempt status, expedited review, etc.)? What will you need to do to obtain approval for a classroom research study?
- Identify colleagues at your institution or in your community in other disciplines than your own that may consult or collaborate on a possible research project with you and your group. For example, psychology, education, measurement, quantitative or qualitative research methods, statistics.

B. During USCOTS: June 25-27, 2009

- Attend USCOTS
- Attend Research Breakout sessions during USCOTS.
- Participate in a lunch meeting with the Research Cluster on Friday.

C. After USCOTS

- Attend the final Research Cluster meeting from 4:00-6:30 on Saturday, June 27
- Actively participate in a collaborative research group for the next two years (e.g., conference calls typically held on a monthly basis with some individual reading/work between calls.)
- Report on group progress and milestones at scheduled time points.
- Participate in USCOTS-3 in 2011, to present the results of your collaborative research.

3. APPLICATION: DUE MARCH 31, 2009

Research Interests (1 page maximum)

- Please describe your research interests in statistics education.
- Are you currently involved in a research project? Do you have data you are analyzing?

- What do you hope to gain from your participation in the CAUSEmos research cluster?
- How will your research be facilitated through participation in a collaborative research group?

Your Background (2 pages maximum)

- Description of any course work or knowledge you have related to conducting educational research.
- Description of any educational research you have been involved in, your role, experience, etc.
- Description of you current professional work and how it relates to your interest in statistics education research.
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- We envision that the collaborative research will be conducted on students in statistics courses.
- What type of access will you have to students for a research study? (e.g., students in your class, students in a colleague's class, all stats courses at your institution).
- If you are currently teaching statistics, please provide:
 - Description of the courses you teach.
 - Description of population of students who enroll in these courses.
- Please describe any concerns and/or constraints you have regarding your participation in a collaborative classroom research project.

Being part of a collaborative research group (1 page maximum)

- Please reflect on and describe how you work or prefer to work with others in a group.
- Include comments on your preferred communication and work style.

Please copy this list to the end of your application and check the following:

- ___ Willingness to participate in regular (free) conference calls with your research group.
- ___ Ability to attend pre-USCOTS meeting on June 25, 2009 from 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- ___ Ability to attend post-USCOTS meeting on June 27, 2009 from 4-6:30 p.m.
- ___ Ability to attend 2011 USCOTS meeting.