

# The DataJam Download

Official Newsletter of the Pittsburgh DataWorks



***Schedule an Intro  
to the DataJam  
Presentation***

***Get to know the  
DataWorks  
Website***

***Meet the  
DataScience  
Professional***

***Meet the New  
Mentors***

***DataJam Timeline  
for 2023-2024***

## ***Schedule an Intro to the DataJam Presentation***



We're thrilled to announce that DataJam mentors are available to give short presentations about what the DataJam is to your school! These engaging sessions will provide students with valuable insights into what DataJam is all about, what resources are available to help teams develop and undertake a DataJam project, and how to put together a winning project.

To schedule a presentation, simply reach out to us at [datajam@pghdataworks.org](mailto:datajam@pghdataworks.org). Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to learn about the world of data science and analytics. These presentations will be held via Zoom for your convenience. Get ready to dive into the world of DataJam and unleash your data-driven potential! Stay tuned---this monthly newsletter will provide updates about new resources available to DataJam teams, introduce you to DataJam mentors and professionals who use data science in their careers, and what is going on with the DataJam all around the country.

## **Get to know the DataWorks Website!**

Discover a wealth of resources at [pghdataworks.org](http://pghdataworks.org) to supercharge your DataJam project. Start with a 7-minute video called “A Walkthrough of the Pittsburgh DataWorks Website” that you can find either at the top of the Homepage or the top of DataJam page. This will tell you right where to go to locate all the valuable assets available to your team on the website!

Here's a glimpse of what you'll find:

### **Homepage:**

- Stay updated with DataJam News and the DataJam Newsletter.
- See old news and past DataJam Downloads in the DataWorks Archive.

### **About Page:**

- Learn about the DataJam and participating high schools.
- Meet the Pittsburgh DataWorks Advisory Board.
- Explore our valued Partners and Sponsors.

### **DataJam Page:**

- Dive into 7 introductory videos.
- Get your hands on the 2024 DataJam Guidebook.
- Find inspiration in completed projects (with downloadable posters) and an Inspiration Guide.
- Access the 2023-2024 DataJam timeline.

### **DataSets Page:**

- Discover a curated list of free, valuable databases for your research needs.
- Formulate research questions effortlessly with topic-specific guidance.
- Dive into National Datasets offering comprehensive insights into the U.S., including demographics, economics, public health, and more.
- Explore Regional Datasets tailored to specific regions, providing data on demographics, employment, health, education, and other vital aspects.

### **Resources Page:**

- Navigate the DataJam effortlessly with DataJam Project Guides.
- Hone your skills in Google Sheets, Excel, Tableau, R-Studio, Python, GitHub, Social Explorer, and presentation preparation.

### **Mentors Page:**

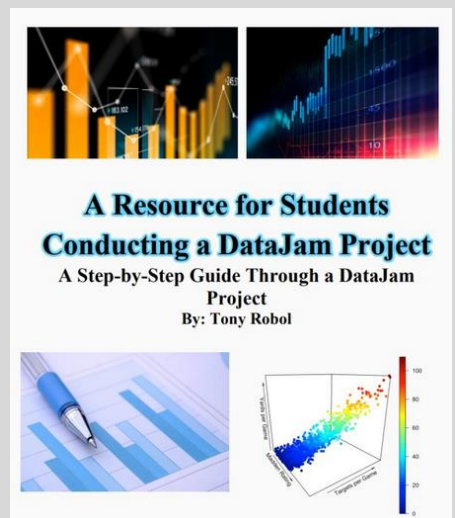
- Meet and learn from DataJam Mentors through their bios.

### **Classroom Activities Page:**

- Explore a modular curriculum designed for teaching introductory data science principles.
- Utilize active learning and hands-on project-based approaches for effective teaching.
- Suitable for various settings: classroom, after-school programs, workshops.



DataJam Guidebook - 2024



## **Meet the DataScience Professional**

Hi! I'm Beth Schwanke, the executive director of the University of Pittsburgh's Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security ([Pitt Cyber](#)). I'm not a data scientist, I'm actually a lawyer, but my work in recent years has led me to want to be an advocate for responsible data science, so I love getting to be a part of DataJam.

Here at Pitt Cyber, we spend a lot of time thinking about AI, from development to governance to deployment. While I'm really excited about AI technologies, it's also important that we remain clear-eyed about risks. One of the big risks is that AI technologies can be biased. As just one example, many facial recognition technologies are consistently least accurate on women of color. There are complex and intersecting reasons why AI technologies can produce biased outcomes, but a significant reason is the training data used. Responsible data science can help improve that data, making biased AI outcomes less likely.

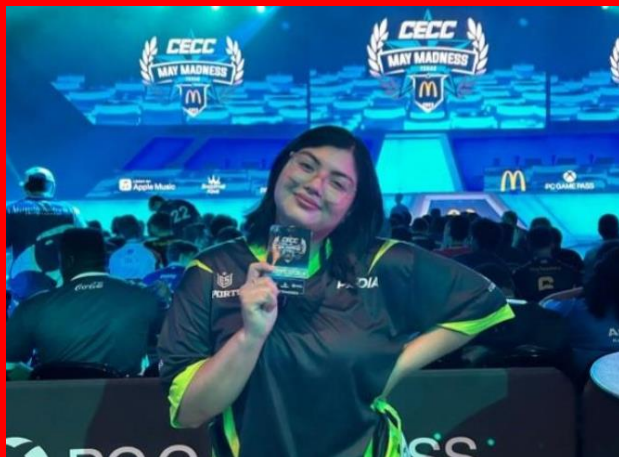
So that's just one reason that I'm really excited that you're participating in the DataJam. Whether you follow a path into data science, or you find yourself headed elsewhere, understanding how data science works—and the ability to think critically about it—is incredibly valuable.

My own path hasn't been linear. I went to Wellesley College for undergrad and then to the University of Michigan for law school. From there, I had a fellowship advocating for international political prisoners. I was then an associate at a large law firm in Washington DC, where I worked on everything from congressional investigations to trade sanctions. I also served as the policy counsel at a think tank for several years. And then I was lucky enough to come to Pittsburgh and land at Pitt Cyber where I get to work on everything from responsible AI to disinformation to cybersecurity education.

I could have never predicted this path when I was in high school or college or even law school, but it's been truly rewarding. I hope you will also be able to jump at opportunities that excite you, even if they don't follow a traditional path for your profession. Understanding data analytics and data science will make that easy. You can take the skill sets you're starting to develop now in so many extraordinary directions and they will always be useful to you.

## **Meet the New Mentors**

We are delighted to continue the expansion of DataJam in New Jersey where more and more DataJam teams are forming, and we are training mentors at Caldwell University.



### **Norka Salazar**

Hello! My name is Norka Salazar. I've been living most of my life in the Hudson County area of New Jersey. I get the pleasure of seeing the NYC skyline everyday! I'm currently in the process of achieving my Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science at Caldwell University. I recently started to work in a data center and work with many different types of server models. In addition to that, I am captain of the Valorant team in my University's ESports program and a thrower for Caldwell's Track and Field team. It is my pleasure to get to know you and guide you as best as I can!

## Essence Crosdale

Hi, my name is Essence Crosdale, I am 22 and a senior at Caldwell University. My major is CIS (Computer Info. systems). For the future I am going to try to get into cybersecurity. In my free time I enjoy listening to music and hanging out with my friends. I look forward to mentoring and helping you out!



## Alexia Cunningham

Hello, I'm Alexia Cunningham, a senior at Caldwell University, pursuing a double major in Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics. This past summer, I had the incredible opportunity to serve as a Intern at SAP. This marked my second internship with SAP, and it's been an enriching journey. In my internship, I've been deeply immersed in the analytical side of the tech world. My role involved diving headfirst into data, extracting valuable insights, and contributing to product releases that impact SAP's global operations. My passion for data and its transformative potential drove me to seek out this experience, and it's been nothing short of fulfilling.

## Kris Lara

Hello everyone! My name is Kris Lara and I am a Computer Information Systems major and Data analytics minor at Caldwell university. I am a member of the EOF and Esports team here at Caldwell. I love working with data. Data is a fascinating and valuable resource because it holds the potential to reveal insights, patterns, and trends that can inform better decision-making and drive innovation. I hope I can provide you with more insight on the data world and assist you in harnessing its power to make informed choices, solve challenges, and drive meaningful progress in your life.



## Diogo Santos

Hey! I'm Diogo Santos, a junior at Caldwell University where I'm pursuing a degree in supply chain management, complemented by a minor in data analytics. I am both American and Portuguese. Some of my interests are soccer – both playing and watching – as well as traveling, reading, continuous learning, and keeping up with politics. Recognizing the importance of data comprehension across many fields like sports, politics, and even food, I find great use in this skill. I'm excited to further develop my data knowledge alongside all of you.

## **DataJam Timeline for 2023-2024**

On the DataJam page of the website the new 2024 DataJam Timeline has been posted. Click [here](#) to see the Timeline.

- **Proposals due Fri., Dec. 8, 2023**
- **Posters will be due Fri., March 29, 2024**
- **2024 DataJam Finale will be Thur., April 25, 2024**

### **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 [datajam@pghdataworks.org](mailto:datajam@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 2024 DataJam Team**

It is easy to register your team. Send an email to [DataJam@pghdataworks.org](mailto:DataJam@pghdataworks.org) to let us know you have a team that would like to compete in the 2024 DataJam. Include: (1) the name of your school or group, (2) the name, email address and phone number for the team advisor (a teacher or other adult), and (3) the names and email addresses for each student on the team (\*non-school emails work best as some schools block emails from outside groups such as DataJam).

**We are looking forward to DataJam 2024!**  
**We Hope You Are Too!**

Email us at [datajam@pghdataworks.org](mailto:datajam@pghdataworks.org) when you are ready to start working with a DataJam Mentor!