PITTSBURGH DATAWORKS

September 2023 // Issue 12

The DataJam Download

Official Newsletter of the Pittsburgh DataWorks

National Workshop on Data Science Education

The DataJam was highlighted this summer at the National Workshop on Data Science Education held at the University of California at Berkeley, as a good example of real-world data science project-based learning. The workshop showcased the importance of project-based learning in data science education. DataJam was recognized as developing practical data science skills, promoting ethical considerations when working with data, and creating workforce pipelines.

See the full article in the News Sections of the Pittsburgh DataWorks Homepage!
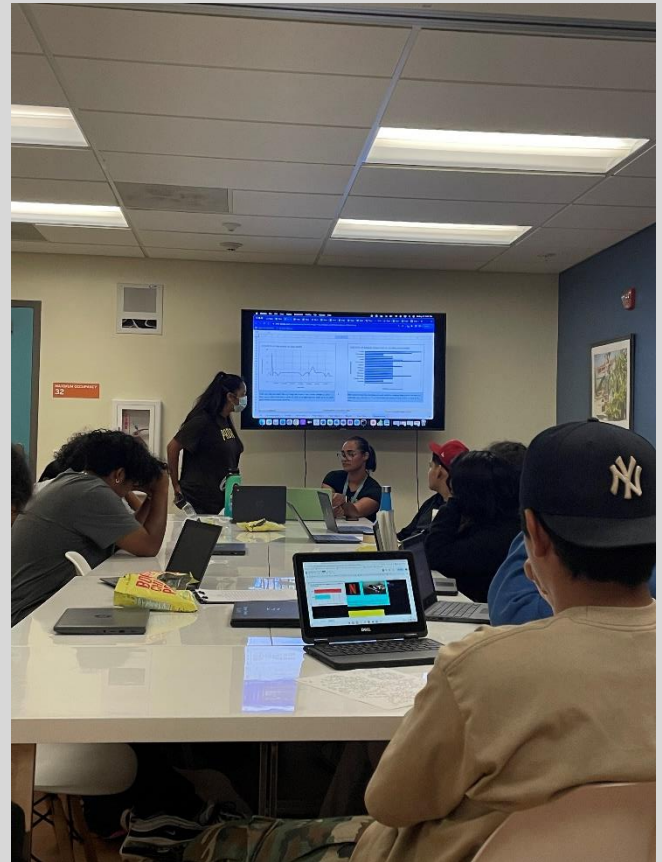
DataJam Summer Camp for the Monarch School

For over 30 years, The Monarch School Project has been dedicated to empowering unhoused youth, enabling them to drive their own growth in academics and socio-emotional learning. This summer, in collaboration with Pittsburgh DataWorks, The Monarch School Project in San Diego, CA organized the inaugural DataJam summer camp. This partnership equipped students with essential skills for their career readiness toolkit, fostering self-reflection on their strengths, abilities, and contributions.

Fourteen high school students, most of whom were incoming ninth graders, embarked on a week-long data science journey. Despite the brief duration—ten hours over five days, two hours per day—the students accomplished significant milestones. They not only created their own data sets and gained proficiency in data entry, charting, and pivot tables to extract insights, but also confidently presented their findings to a guest audience. Additionally, the Monarch School students had the unique opportunity to attend their first West Big Hub Data conference!

Commencing with an icebreaker, the week unfolded into valuable networking experiences with an actual data scientist. The students culminated their journey with a presentation of their impactful findings, showcasing their newfound skills and knowledge.

Undoubtedly, the summer camp imparted valuable technical skills and offered a real-world perspective on the realm of data science. Yet, more significantly, it acted as a platform for self-discovery. It motivated students to question established knowledge, build comprehension, and express their findings with assurance. Pittsburgh DataWorks, recognizing the immense value of this collaboration, was delighted to join forces with The Monarch School Project in this transformative endeavor.

Would you rather be born w/o knees or w/o elbows	COUNTA of Would you rath
elbows	1
knees	13
Grand Total	14

Students would rather be born with...

Would you rather live w/o netflix or w/o tiktok?	COUNTA of Wou
netflix	9
tiktok	5
Grand Total	14

Students who would rather live wit...
- tiktok 35.7%
- netflix 64.3%

Would You Rather Survey Data

THE COLLECTED DATA : We surveyed 14 students 5 would you rather questions & collected the returned data into a google sheet to be recorded and anaylized

THE QUESTIONS
Would you rather be born with or without elbows?

Would you rather listen to the same five songs for ever or watch the same five movies for ever?

Would you rather live without Netflix or TikTok?

Would you rather travel back in time or to the future?

Would you rather win the lottery or be famous?

THE SKILLS AND INFORMATION I HAVE LEARNED
- Data Entry   - Creating Charts   - Using filters
- Google Sheets   - Using The Find Function - Asking Questions

UNANSWEARED QUESTIONS
Does the year today have an impact on what students opinions are?
As our generation advances, Will students answers change?

Would you rather listen to the same 5 songs or same 5 movies?	COU
5movies	
5songs	
Grand Total	

would you rather be famous or win the lottery?	COU
famous	
lottery	
Grand Total	

Think about Publishing Your DataJam Project!

You've poured a whole year's worth of effort into your DataJam project. Your team nailed down an intriguing research question, built a solid testable hypothesis, found the right datasets to dig into, and used clever methods to uncover some really cool findings. Your poster and presentation were top-notch too. But guess what? You're not ready to call it a day. You're hungry for more.

If all these thoughts are racing through your mind, listen up. There's a way to kick things up a notch. Ever thought about taking your DataJam project to the next level and getting it published? Yup, you heard it right. Your hard work could get recognized on a bigger stage.

Check out "Publishing Your Research as a High Schooler: 20 Journals and Conferences to Consider" by Alex Yang. This article is a goldmine of ideas. It's like a roadmap to show you how you could share your DataJam project with a wide audience. Imagine influencing high school students all over the country – and even the world – with your take on data science and how it can change the game.

Feeling stuck or unsure about the publishing process? No worries. We've got your back. If you need advice or a helping hand on getting your DataJam project out there, just drop us a line at datajam@gphdatawork.org.

So, don't let your project fade into the background. Let's make it shine bright and make a splash in the world of data science! Your insights could be the next big thing, and we're here to help you make it happen.

DataJam Partners with Edtera this Year to Provide Teams, Teachers and Mentors with an Online Communication Platform

As discussed below in the "Meet the Data Science Professional" section, DataJam will partner this year with _Edtera_ to provide all DataJam teams with an online platform to facilitate easy communication between DataJam team members, teachers who serve as DataJam Advisors and DataJam Mentors.

How will this work?

Step 1: When a group of students decide they want to participate in the DataJam this year, email us right away at datajam@pghdataworks.org and let us know 1) where your group is located (a school or afterschool group), 2) the name and email address for the team advisor, 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)

Step 2: DataWorks will send a permission slip to each student who wants to participate in DataJam to be signed by the student and their parent. Fill this out, have it signed and scan it. Send the scanned, signed permission slip back to DataWorks at datajam@pghdataworks.org.

Step 3: DataWorks will add each student who has submitted a permission slip to the Edtera Pittsburgh DataWorks site. On the site each DataJam team will have their own space to communicate between themselves, with their advisor and with mentors. Information about DataJam deadlines and resources will be announced on the Edtera site, so it is a great way to stay connected the time the whole time your team is working on your DataJam project.

Meet the Data Science Professional

Hello DataJammers! My name is Uzo Okolo. As Founder and CEO of Edtera, an EdTech company based in San Diego, CA, I am on a mission to advance education through peer-to-peer learning, powered by collaboration networks using AI. My professional background is in Finance. I spent several years working for leading Biotech and Medical Device companies prior to founding Edtera. As an Accounting student at the University of Calabar in Nigeria, I loved education and the opportunities it creates. When I moved to the United States about 25 years ago, I enjoyed learning how technology helps create innovation through my MBA program at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. While working in the corporate world, I was involved in several technology projects that helped transform the practice of Finance. This high-level exposure to technology helped me to obtain my second master's degree in Technology Management from Columbia University, New York, NY.

Why was Edtera created? It all started several years ago when my eldest daughter who was then in high school in San Diego asked me a few times to drop her off at school early in the morning. When I asked her why, she told me she was struggling with AP Calculus and needed to meet the teacher during his office hours. When I probed further to know how many students were in her situation, she told me it was about half the class. As a parent, I was bothered by this information because she is a very smart kid, who by the way graduated from Johns Hopkins and is now at George Washington medical school. After doing some research, I found out that engagement is a major factor in determining student success. I went on to create Edtera to help students help one another, and to reduce the burden on their teachers.

Edtera creates a multi-channel collaboration network system that allows students to engage beyond their immediate classroom. Students can collaborate with other students in their chosen subjects within the same school district, state, nation, and the entire world. We are excited that DataJam will be using Edtera this year so teams can communicate with each other, their teachers, and their mentors about questions they have while they are working on their DataJam projects.

Edtera uses AI to flag offensive communications between students and It allows students to post messages anonymously to avoid bullying. And Edtera uses AI to understand the pattern of inquiries made by students to help school administrators better plan for areas where students will need the most help. Additionally, teachers can plan better for their class lectures after observing the messages posted by their students.

In the future, Edtera will deploy AI to help teachers plan a student's learning cycle. From conducting diagnostic tests and uncovering learning gaps, to recommending remedies needed to close those gaps, Edtera's AI technology will be used to support student achievement the same way an expert helps guide a student through their learning journey.

The 2023-24 DataJam Timeline

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. 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 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 seeing you at DataJam 2024 next Spring!

If you would like the DataJam Newsletter sent to your personal email address, just email us at DataJam@pghdataworks.org.