

# Connecting and supporting data science education researchers through the CAUSE Organization

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**Background and Context.** Our objective is to introduce CAUSE Research to the SIGCSE and ICER community in order to build bridges among data science education researchers in CS education, statistics education, and related disciplines. The Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education (CAUSE; [www.causeweb.org](http://www.causeweb.org)) is a U.S.-based organization with international reach whose mission is to support the advancement of undergraduate statistics and data science education. CAUSE Research is a subsidiary entity of CAUSE that seeks to promote and support the advancement of statistics and data science education research. While the broader CAUSE organization has been a vibrant and active community for approximately 20 years, CAUSE Research had fallen dormant until recently. After appointing two new co-Associate Directors for Research, CAUSE Research has jump-started a substantial reboot to better serve statistics and data science education researchers. Specifically, we targeted input related to resources, infrastructure, and initiatives that could benefit statistics and data science education researchers.

**Method.** We sought initial input from a range of researchers in statistics education: leaders in statistics education research, experienced and aspiring statistics education researchers. We gathered insight from former CAUSE Research Directors and then recruited experienced researchers to serve on an advisory board for CAUSE Research. To kickoff our efforts to reboot CAUSE Research, we arranged a CAUSE Research Satellite meeting in conjunction with a statistics education conference ([www.causeweb.org/uscots21](http://www.causeweb.org/uscots21)) in summer 2021 to build community and identify how CAUSE can better support statistics and data science education research(ers). An announcement to the statistics education community was sent out inviting current and aspiring statistics education researchers to this satellite meeting.

**Findings.** The one-day satellite was attended by 62 current and aspiring researchers from North America, Europe, and Brazil who shared perspectives on how CAUSE Research could engage and support their work. Future goals identified during the meeting included the need to connect researchers from diverse disciplines, build mentoring infrastructure to develop new researchers, disseminate resources related to statistics and data science education research, and advocate for the value and impact of such research. Moreover, the interest generated by the satellite meeting itself was much greater than expected; we initially anticipated a few dozen attendees, but were overwhelmed by 139 registrations and ultimately welcomed 62 attendees.

**Implications.** Shared interests between statistics education and computer science education researchers have been underdeveloped by comparison to the scale of opportunity presented by the growth of interest in data sciences. We hope to generate both interest and ideas from the ICER community, to welcome your involvement with CAUSE Research, and to learn how we can better serve data science education research(ers) together.

Additional Key Words and Phrases: data science education, statistics education, statistics

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