

DATA IS MY JOB

To celebrate Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month, we highlight four ASA members who have used their statistics skills and imaginations to snag sweet jobs.



NANCY POTOK

**Chief Statistician
of the United States**

Office of Management and Budget

SUPERPOWER:
Proficient active listening

**WHEN WE SAY "DATA,"
YOU SAY:** Treasure

RÉSUMÉ HACK: Including results I personally achieved, targeted to the résumé reader. I never send the exact same résumé twice.



YIHUI XIE

Software Engineer

RStudio, Inc.

SUPERPOWER: Leading people to "the road less traveled" by creating simpler software.

**WHEN WE SAY "DATA,"
YOU SAY:** `data.frame()`

RÉSUMÉ HACK: Don't create a static PDF. Create a web page instead (print it to PDF when necessary) and update it as frequently as you can. To be able to update it frequently, you have to do things, which is the only way to make yourself prolific.



JANET McDOUGALL

President

McDougall Scientific

SUPERPOWER: The ability to synthesize the science behind the research question, and the FDA regulations that need to be satisfied, into a robust and efficient statistical design, then explain to the researcher how the design addresses each of these essential components—backed up by solid literature.

RÉSUMÉ HACK: Tailor your résumé to the job requirements and the company. Sending the same résumé to everyone is not the way to be noticed. Showing, based on your experience and education, how you match the requirements sets you apart—you make the reviewer's job easier and it shows you put effort into the response.

WHEN WE SAY "DATA," YOU SAY: Integrity



ROB SANTOS

Chief Methodologist

Urban Institute

SUPERPOWER: Connecting research question to design to analysis to insight

RÉSUMÉ HACK: Tailor your résumé for each job to which you apply; include a brief bio that weaves your career and educational paths in a way that shows your passion for statistics/research/methods/whatever and how it fits exactly into the position you are applying to. ... Employers will notice.

**WHEN WE SAY "DATA,"
YOU SAY:** Knowledge



HAVE GOOD ADVICE?

Share your answers by tagging @AmstatNews and #mathaware.