The DataJam Fact Sheet

• The DataJam is an annual year-long activity and competition for high school students to introduce, encourage and engage young people in big data analytics to help prepare them for the future as big data is utilized everywhere, from the world of athletics to make play predictions during games, to Pandora Radio to categorize and play new songs the listener is likely to enjoy, to sequencing the Human Genome, to all businesses who use big data to meet the needs of their customers. Teams are usually composed of 2-8 students. The team picks a research question they are interested in studying and we help them find datasets that can be analyzed to answer their question.

• University undergraduate students from a wide variety of majors serve as DataJam mentors. They are available to meet with DataJam teams by zoom throughout the academic year to help your students think about a project they would like to undertake, to help them find data sets to work with, write their proposal, learn data analytical procedures and ways of graphing and visualizing data, to put their final presentations together and to help them practice their final presentations.

• The DataJam started in 2013, is coordinated by the educational nonprofit company, Pittsburgh DataWorks, but represents a coordinated effort by universities and data scientists in industry. In 2021 DataJam started expanding nationally with a National Science Foundation pilot grant. Teams from New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York, central Pennsylvania and California are now participating. In 2022 we are starting to train DataJam Mentors at a variety of universities across the country.

• At the Pittsburgh DataWorks website (pghdataworks.org) under the DataJam tab, you will find a timeline for the DataJam that is updated at the start of each academic year. You can view a brief presentation about what the DataJam is, how teams can sign up, and what is involved (https://youtu.be/BZByoabdUgU). You are welcome to share this presentation with students at your high school or afterschool club, who you think would be interested in participating in the DataJam. There are a huge number of resources on the DataWorks website---explore the Home page, DataJam, DataSets and Resources pages.

We are always looking to engage new schools and new teachers --- please consider letting students you think would be interested know about the DataJam!
Visit the Pittsburgh DataWorks website – www.pghdataworks.org to learn more,
or email us at DataJam@pghdataworks.org