

ANALYTICS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Hello, Analytics Community of Practice Members,
This month we are highlighting ACP member Melissa Williams-Smith, Director of Institutional Planning and Research. She will serve as our featured May BIWorkShare: Welcome to the Data World on May 17th. This month's newsletter also includes the 2023 EDUCAUSE Horizon Action Plan. Assembled by a panel of higher education analytics experts including USC's very own Chief Data Officer, Mike Kelly, the plan describes the future of data governance. Finally, we share a new list of data and analytics-related events that are completely free to attend!

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ACP FEATURE MEMBER:

Melissa Williams-Smith

Role at USC-Upstate : Director of Institutional Planning and Research

What role does Analytics play in your office?

Analytics plays a huge role in the office as we are constantly collecting data and analyzing it to reveal various insights within the institution. Our data analysis is the driving force behind the institution's strategic plan and many other decision-making processes.



What role does analytics play in higher education, and what advents/technologies do you see on the horizon? Analytics is of significant importance in higher education because it can provide information to assist faculty and staff meet the individual needs of the students. Also, institutions can gain awareness of ineffective programs and/or areas for expansion.

Favorite data visualization and/or analytics tools and why? I appreciate the flexibility and intuitive design of Tableau. It is also easy to navigate and build dashboards from any set of data. You also can a step further to make your dashboards stand out by converting your dashboard into a story. This allows entities to not only graphically display the results of the data but also tell a story with the data.

How did you learn about the ACP? I was recruited by two intelligent and ambitious young ladies from the Flagship.

What other reporting software are you interested in learning? I am open and interested in learning every tool and software I am provided the opportunity to learn.

What/who inspires you? I don't want to sound cliché, but I am inspired by all the greats of black history. All of the people were determined to overcome their plight and open the minds of all to diversity and equity. I am also inspired by my 5-year-old son, whose tenacity and perseverance rings true daily. It shows me what I have instilled deep within me and motivates me to keep moving forward even through difficult times.

Book recommendations (work-related or not): You Are a Data Person by Amelia Parnell (work-related), and Jack and Jill by James Patterson (non-work related).

2023 EDUCAUSE Horizon Action Plan: Data Governance

Jenay Robert and Betsy Reinitz



EDUCAUSE



Mike Kelly - CDO

USC's Chief Data Officer (CDO) Dr. Mike Kelly served as an expert panelist on the latest Horizon product – an action plan – from EDUCAUSE. The CDO provides system-wide leadership for governing university data and information assets to ensure the availability of data for making decisions that support the mission, goals, and strategic priorities of the eight campuses and Palmetto College

The EDUCAUSE Horizon Action plan set out to answer the following questions: what challenges will higher education face, and how will we rise to meet those challenges? How can we leverage our individual and collective expertise to create innovative and durable data governance solutions?

Approaching these questions with a spirit of hope and optimism, a panel of higher education data and analytics experts from various assembled to describe an optimized future of data governance, focusing on a 10-year timescale. A few points the panel mentioned in the paper highlight the importance of working with senior leaders and providing visibility to what investments in data governance have achieved. Additionally, the panel encourages acquiring a subset of data practitioners who specialize in cultivating data literacy, data training, and data system awareness to support faculty and staff in their own data literacy journeys. Be sure to read the report to learn other best practices for reaching future data governance goals.

[Read Full Report](#)

EVENTS

- Spring [Data] Cleaning with Tableau Prep 5
- BIWorkShare: Welcome to the Data World 5
- AR (Data Warehouse) Reports 6
- How to Use JSON Data in SAS 6
- Appalachian State University's Annual Analytics Day 7

If your looking for more Tableau related events [click here](#)

SPRING [DATA] CLEANING WITH TABLEAU PREP

MAY 9TH @10:00 - 11:00AM

LOCATION: Tableau Virtual Event

We all have dirty data, although we don't like to admit it. Join us as we review Tableau Prep for data cleaning, scaling, and publishing.



[Register now](#)

BIWORKSHARE: WELCOME TO THE DATA WORLD

MAY 17TH @10:30 - 11:30AM

LOCATION: Teams Virtual Event

This event will serve as an introduction to the field of Institutional Research. It will also walk through the mission and vision of the Upstate Institutional Planning and Research office and address issues and solutions to bridging the gap between education and data. This event will be presented by Melissa-Williams Smith the Director of Institutional Planning and Research at the University of South Carolina-Upstate.

[Register now](#)

AR (DATA WAREHOUSE) REPORTS

MAY 18TH @ 9:00 - 10:30AM

LOCATION: USC Virtual Event

Banner provides a wealth of information about students and their financial information, but reporting through Banner itself is limited. Data Warehouse reports summarized Banner information in a way that is meaningful and user-friendly. This class covers navigating within Data Warehouse and running commonly used reports that use AR data (tuition and fees, balances, etc).

Questions about course content should be directed to ARTRAIN@mailbox.sc.edu.

[Register now](#)

HOW TO USE JSON DATA IN SAS

MAY 25TH @ 11:00 - 12:00PM

LOCATION: SAS Virtual Event

JSON is a key interchange format between applications and API-based services. SAS has built-in tools to convert JSON to SAS data for analytics, as well as to convert data from SAS to JSON output to integrate with other applications.

Join this webinar to learn how to use SAS, read JSON data sources, and create JSON output within SAS programming.

[Register now](#)

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL ANALYTICS DAY

JUN. 15TH 8:30 - 5:30PM

LOCATION: Zoom Virtual Event

Registration for Analytics Day 2023 is now open!

The theme this year is **DATA AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.**

We hope you and your colleagues will join us on June 15th for this virtual, one day mini-conference with a focus on using Tableau for analytics in Higher Education. There will be a wide variety of how-to and show-and-tell sessions as well as data visualization tips throughout the day. This professional development experience is appropriate for new and veteran employees in various departments across campus. From analysts to data scientists, from directors to researchers, there is something for everyone!

- Registration is FREE and open until June 5th
- We'd love to see your work! Submit a proposal by May 23rd (you will receive the link after you register)



[Register](#)



LOCATION: LinkedIn Post

Interested in learning more about Excel checkout Nicholas Boucher's LinkedIn post that contains numerous free Excel topic guides. A few topics covered include :

1. Presentation of Excel and PowerQuery
2. Excel Ultimate Guide
3. Excel Vlookup
4. Excel Lookups
5. Excel Shortcuts
6. Excel Tips
7. Excel Financial Statements Template
8. Excel Waterfall Template
9. Excel Table and Tabular Data
10. Excel Charts Tips

Be sure to check out the post for a full comprehensive list of topics

CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY

Did You Know?

The new ACP [Microsoft Teams Site](#) is a great way to spread the word about coming events and opportunities! In an effort to reduce email traffic, we encourage you all to send communications via the Microsoft Teams Site. All events shared will also be included in the newsletter, which will continue to go out via the listserv.

As always, the following links and email addresses can be used for the specified purposes:

- To contact the list owner: ANALYTICS-request@LISTSERV.SC.EDU
- [Click here](#) to join the Analytics Community of Practice

Please send us visualizations suggestions for the viz of the month!

If you would like to suggest a visualization for next months viz of the month be sure to share it with us at any one of our communication channels! We are software and tool agnostic so you can send us vizzes from across the spectrum of BI technologies. The visualization can be something you created, a coworker, or something you found. We look forward to seeing your suggestions!

LOOKING FOR MORE EVENTS?

University Libraries offer students, faculty, staff and the entire community opportunities to engage with data. They have a new list of data related events every week, just follow the link below!

[Click here for more events](#)