

ANALYTICS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Hello Analytics Community of Practice Members,
The ACP is a large growing community of members from all different departments. This month we wanted to shout out one our members Megan Colascione for her involvement in the community and share a little bit about her. Additionally, we wanted to highlight a site that hosts many visualization with important data for analysis . This month we also have a new list of data and analytics related events that are completely free to attend!

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ACP FEATURED MEMBER:

Megan Colascione



Role at UofSC: Assessment Director for the Department of Student Life

What role does Analytics play in your office?

The Department of Student Life consists of 11 front facing units that host programs, events, and services for the students and Gamecock community. The Department of Student Life falls under the Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support. Our department's mission is to advance student success by serving as a catalyst for student involvement through experiences, services, and facilities that enhance leadership development, diversity and inclusion, community engagement, and personal wellness. The Department of Student Life has been working with data analytics for the past 4 years. We focus on internal data captured from Carolina Card swipes at events, programs, services, and facilities. We utilize analytics to view aggregate data from each unit, discuss trends, and pivot our plans to enhance the student experience each semester.

What are some of the greatest challenges you experience with analytics, and what lessons have you learned along the way?

Analytics are a powerful tool, but they do not tell the whole story – especially the story on a student's experience. We focus primarily on quantitative analytics and our department knows that the qualitative side brings incredible insight. The lesson I consistently learn is that we are only as good as the data we collect. It is impossible to collect data on every, single interaction that our students engage in, but we can get a glimpse of trends/preferences of the student body and that helps us plan out each semester.

What role does analytics play in higher education, and what advents/technologies do you see on the horizon?

Analytics will continue to play a critical role in the landscape of Higher Education. It is essential that we can showcase the importance and impact of the student experience within and beyond the classroom. I believe that the climate of higher education will move towards a more tailored approach to student engagement on campus. This would mean that technology develops in a way that brings a custom experience of involvement opportunities to students with various pathways/passions. As an example, if a student is passionate about community service, they would receive a distinct pathway of engagement opportunities that surround service or community connection. Then the student could choose their own experience a-la-carte – a true customized, unique experience for each student.

What is the most exciting analytics project you've worked on in the past 12 months? Please describe.

We have been working with the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics to showcase the impact of Campus Recreation. If students utilize Campus Recreation facilities/programs, do they persist towards earning their degree verse students who do not engage at all? We are still diving into the data regarding larger trends, but this is an incredible opportunity to show the importance of health and wellness on our campus and within the student experience.



Favorite data visualization and/or analytics tools and why?

The Department of Student Life solely works with Microsoft Power BI. We love the ease of access to share reports and add reports to Microsoft Teams chats/groups. The reports are user-friendly, and our staff love the ability to manipulate data to see larger/smaller trends.

How did you learn about the ACP?

I learned about ACP through the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics team with Jonathan Poon and Michael Tucker.

What other reporting software are you interested in learning? Tableau!

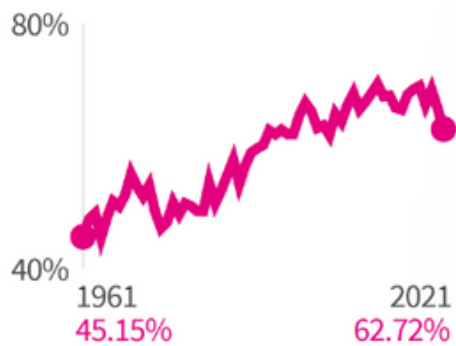
What/who inspires you?

I am inspired by people who have passion for what they do. There is nothing more contagious than seeing the spark light within someone for engaging in work that they love doing.

Book recommendations: Radical Candor by Kim Scott (podcast as well!)



VIZ OF THE MONTH



College enrollment rate

62.72%

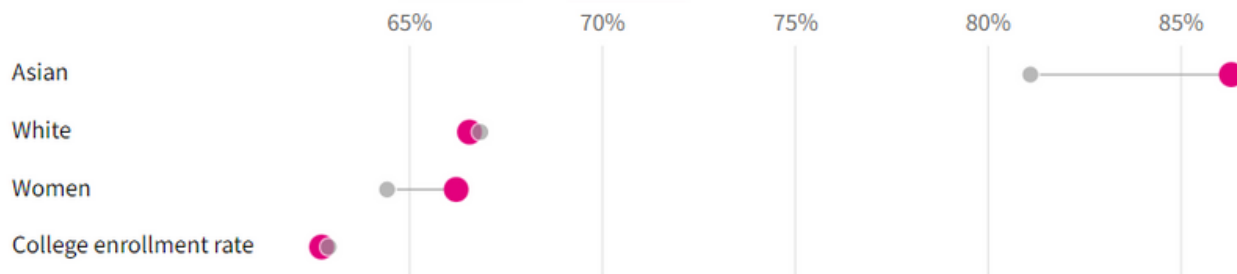
2021

November's Viz of the Month comes from usafacts.org. This viz breaks down the college enrollment rate from 1961 to 2021 in America.

This site allows you to filter data by gender, ethnicity, and gives you an option to make your own visualization with the explorer tab. You can choose which attributes you want to compare and it will create a chart in the style you selected with the given data.

Example data visualization using the explorer tab

College enrollment rate **2000** vs **2021**



In less than a minute with the explorer tab a user is able to get data specifically looking at the college enrollment rate in America between 2000 and 2021 of white and Asian females. It is interesting to learn that despite the significant increase in Asian females enrolling in college in 2021, overall there was a decrease in college enrollment from 2000 to 2021. This site contains numerous other data visualization from K12 annual funding across America to how many people have received the COVID-19 vaccine so be sure to check it out!

[Click here](#) to explore the site

EVENTS

- Onboarding New Users at Scale and Driving Adoption 7
- SHARPGGrads: Introduction to OpenRefine 7
- SHARPGGrads: Introduction to Open Science Framework 8
- Introduction to Tableau Blueprint 8
- Establishing Server Maintenance Best Practices 9

****THIS MONTH ALL LISTED EVENTS ARE FREE TO ATTEND!!****

ONBOARDING NEW USERS AT SCALE AND DRIVING ADOPTION

NOV. 3RD @11:00 - 12:00AM

LOCATION: Tableau Virtual Event

You will see how visual and cognitive science explain what makes data visualization so deeply satisfying. Why does a collection of bars, lines, colors, and boxes become surprisingly powerful and meaningful? How does fluid interaction with data views multiply our intelligence?



[Register now](#)

SHARPGRADS: INTRODUCTION TO OPENREFINE

NOV. 8TH @1:15 - 2:30PM

LOCATION: Thomas Cooper Library L104

OpenRefine is a free tool for cleaning and transforming messy tabular data. In this in-person workshop, participants will learn about OpenRefine and get hands-on experience with basic data cleaning.

Instructor: Stacy Winchester

[Register now](#)

SHARPGRADS: INTRODUCTION TO OPEN SCIENCE FRAMEWORK

NOV. 10TH @1:15 - 2:30PM

LOCATION: University Libraries Virtual Event

Open Science Framework is a free online research collaboration platform and data archive, and it is NOT just for science. OSF integrates with researchers' existing workflows and, if desired, makes sharing research results easy. In this session, participants will learn how to build a project and share files with collaborators

Instructor: Stacy Winchester.

[Register now](#)

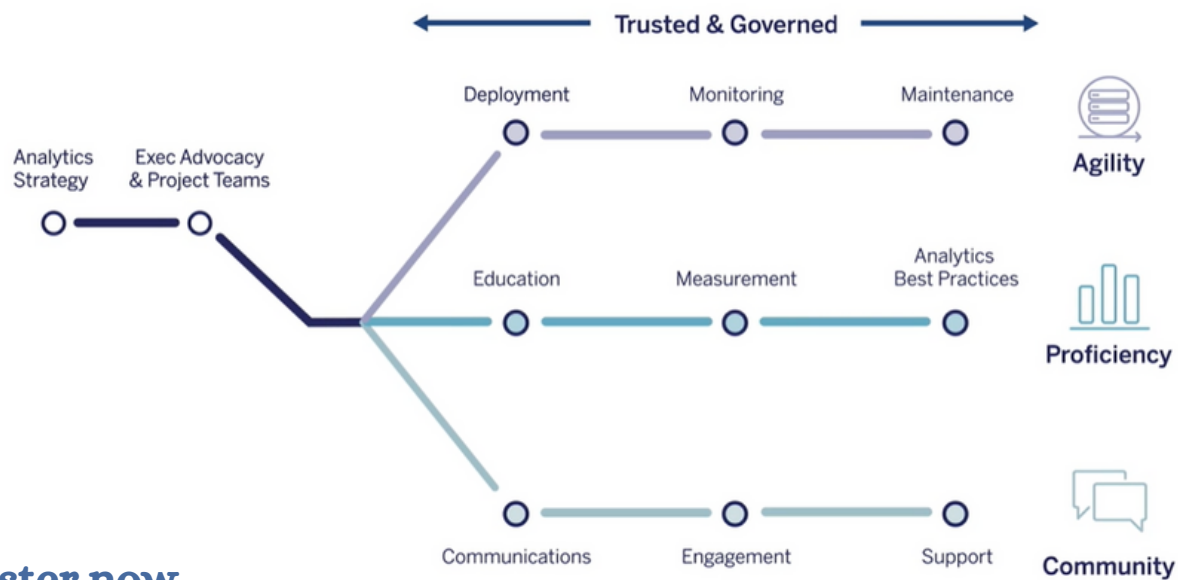
INTRODUCTION TO TABLEAU BLUEPRINT

NOV. 15TH @12:30 - 1:30PM

LOCATION: Tableau Virtual Event

This beginner Tableau Success Connector session will help you learn more about the Tableau Blueprint—a step-by-step methodology for building the capabilities you need to create a successful, data-driven organization.

The Tableau Blueprint offers prescriptive, documented guidance and best practices to help you successfully deploy Tableau.



[Register now](#)

ESTABLISHING SERVER MAINTENANCE BEST PRACTICES

NOV. 24TH @10:00 -11:00AM

LOCATION: Tableau Virtual Event



This session is specifically designed for working professionals who are currently Tableau Server Administrators, BI CoE Leads, Project Managers, Product Owners, and all those who have prior experience in deploying enterprise applications.

[Register now](#)

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](#)