

The Women in Data Science Conference was held on March 4, 2019 at Discovery Park in Purdue University. The daylong conference held in conjunction with WiDS events worldwide, hosted an exciting lineup of keynote, talks by distinguished faculty and industry experts, a workshop session on data visualization, a panel discussion on Data Ethics, and invitations to poster presentations in Data Science.

# Women in Data Science @Purdue 2019

Conference Report

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**WOMEN IN DATA SCIENCE**  
GREATER LAFAYETTE @PURDUE



## WOMEN IN DATA SCIENCE GREATER LAFAYETTE @PURDUE

The Women in Data Science one-day conference (WiDS) was held at Discovery Park on March 4, 2019 attended by approximately 106 participants. Started at Stanford in 2015, the WiDS initiative aims to inspire and educate data scientists worldwide, regardless of gender, and support women in the field. The annual global conference is now held in conjunction with many other entities around the world. At Purdue, the goal is to help build a community focused on data science and to inspire and raise awareness among students and community members about the opportunities for women in the data science field.



The co-ambassadors this year were Annapurni Subramaniam, Administrator of Library Applications from Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies and Dimple Dhawan who is a Senior in Computer Science at Purdue.

Held March 4 at Discovery Park at Purdue University, the Women in Data Science (WiDS) conference was presented with WiDS events worldwide. The event included an exciting lineup of a keynote presentation, talks by distinguished faculty and industry experts, a workshop session covering data visualization, a panel discussion on data ethics, and poster presentations about data science. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, we are able to organize this free event to our community here at Purdue. We thank Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies for hosting this conference at Purdue.

Our generous sponsors include Integrative Data Science Initiative, Department of Computer Science, Department of Biochemistry, College of Engineering, College of Science, Purdue University Center for Cancer Research, and Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies. We appreciate the generosity of our speakers and volunteers who took their time out of their busy schedules to share their expertise in Data Science.

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Department of Biochemistry  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Department of Computer Science  
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

College of Engineering

Integrative Data Science Initiative

College of Science

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**  
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CANCER  
RESEARCH

The Welcome address by Dr. Sunil Prabhakar, Director of IDSI was a great start to the event with highlights on the Data science initiatives in campus and the funding available for Data Science projects.





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The Keynote address by Dr. Jennifer Neville, gave a very good insight on Essential machine learning hacks and tips. The Data analysis pipeline and models were discussed.

The technical talks spread across the areas of Computer Science, Statistics, Cancer Research, Biochemistry, Social Justice, Geographic information for Data Science, Promises and possibilities of Data Science, Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence.



The workshop on Data Visualization using ParaView Tool by Dr. Tsai-Wei Wu had a full room of 35 participants. The workshop guided the participants through the ParaView user interface and generating 3D views for your data.

The panel discussion on Data Ethics was very interactive. The four panelists gave an insight into their data science expertise and the projects they have worked in their career. The discussion focused on data sharing, data usage, solving bias that sneaks into data sets and ending with suggesting a hypocritical oath for data scientists.



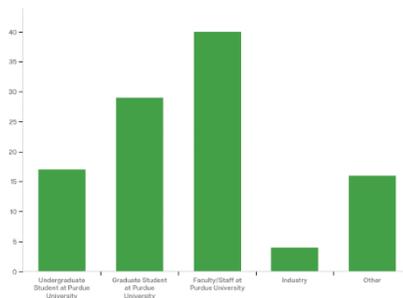


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The research areas in data science covered in the WiDS conference covered a breadth of topics, including machine learning, sequencing technology, social justice, geographic information for data science, data visualization, artificial intelligence, and data ethics. A schedule of the presentations and activities is attached to this report.

The conference was well attended, and the attendees seemed to appreciate it. Attendees were able to register for the daylong event or select individual sessions. This seemed to engage attendees and encourage participation. The venue and the food provided were both rated as "excellent".



Attendees of the 2019 WiDS Conference at Purdue University included: Purdue faculty, students (undergraduate and graduate), and staff, as well as individuals working in the data science industry in the Greater Lafayette community. Via a survey disseminated to the attendees, respondents provided feedback about the desire to: create a data science community, more workshops and training opportunities throughout the year, and an annual conference (e.g., WiDS). Respondents also recommended that WiDS conference organizers collaborate with other Purdue women groups.

In 2020, the organizers of the WiDS Conference at Purdue are hoping to book a larger venue to accommodate more speakers and participants. Additionally, we hope to collaborate and host more data science learning opportunities throughout the year.