*Welcome Note to Judges and Consultants*:

First, many thanks to you all for participating in this year's Chico State DataFest. This is our first time hosting DataFest and we are all very excited. We very much appreciate you taking the time to help with this event. I just wanted to give you a few notes about what to expect this weekend.

*Time:* 5 pm, Friday, April 27-4 pm, Sunday, April 29

*Location*: Chico State University, Holt 155

*Parking*: Parking is free on the weekends on campus. The closest parking lot is on Citrus Ave next to the baseball field.

*Map*: http://www.csuchico.edu/maps/campus/

*Data:* This year’s data set is provided by Indeed. Indeed is a job searching website that consolidates listings from many job boards in one place. It also compiles information from various company career pages and allows users to search locally or globally.

Students will not know the source of the data until Friday evening. At that point, we will present the data and the outlines of a challenge.

Although these questions point to a particular type of challenge, we will encourage the students to think in as large a context as possible, and will certainly encourage any special findings and encourage them to explore any hypotheses they might generate.

Students will download the data on Friday. They will be provided a codebook along with some links to reference material.

*Consulting*: Our primary goal is to provide a rewarding experience for the undergraduates, an experience that sharpens their analytical skills and gives them some confidence that they can take what they learn here out into the ‘’real world”.

The most important thing is to keep the mood light and encouraging! I suspect by sometime Saturday afternoon things might seem rather dire to some of the students.

Most students will use R but we also expect many to use Matlab, Python, SAS, Excel, etc. as well. If asked for support on a platform you’re not familiar with, simply stating so is sufficient.

On Friday night, students will be busy trying to make sense of the data. We expect that some of them might have technical problems with getting started (loading the data, viewing it, etc.). Throughout the weekend the teams will be on their own, though we might have intermittent “check ins”. We imagine they will get stuck and need advice. Sometimes, the advice could be highly technical and, depending on your background, outside your expertise. Don't worry. They know that you are not there to solve their problems, but to offer advice. See if you can steer them towards standard problem-solving techniques: break the problem into smaller pieces, go online for advice, etc. Guide them to think about context. What sort of distribution do they expect? Why? What might cause that? How does that compare to what they saw?

This is a competition, but it is supposed to be friendly and collaborative, so don't worry about revealing any special knowledge. This is not an exam, and so if someone asks, please answer if you can, and don't worry about other teams over hearing. We hope that, after the first evening, teams will be sharing basic technical advice on their own.

*Judging*: Judges, please plan to arrive before 2 pm on Sunday, April 29. The teams' will stop working at 1 pm. There will be a little bit of motion as we then give directions and send people to the proper places, and this will give you time as a group to discuss plans for judging. We're expecting about 3-5 teams. Each team will make a 5 minute presentation and be allowed only 3 slides. Each judge will select one winner in these three categories: Best In Show, Best Use of External Data, and Best Visualization. Next, we will assemble the teams together, and announce the winners. The schedule is as follows:

2-2:45 pm-Presentations

2:45-3:15 pm-Judges deliberations

3:15-4 pm-Awards

All students will receive a prize.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We very much look forward to meeting everyone and spending the weekend with you. Thank you again for taking the time out of your schedule to help our students have a great DataFest.