

# DATA SCIENCE FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

Delivered by Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech

Directors: Gizem Korkmaz and Aaron Schroeder, Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory (SDAL)  
Student Outreach: Dr. Shernita Lee, Education and Outreach (EO)

## Program Description

The **Data Science for the Public Good (DSPG)** program equips new generations of scientists with the skills they need to inform intelligent governmental policy and decision-making. DSPG is delivered by the **Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory (SDAL)**, a leading laboratory in the Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech, located at [Virginia Tech Research Center in Arlington, VA](#). SDAL combines expertise in statistics and social & behavioral sciences to develop quantitative methods and evidence-based research to inform decision-making and evaluation.

Every summer, SDAL researchers and DSPG students team up to work on projects that focus on the interface of data analytics and social science to address real problems at the local, state, and federal levels.

- Horizontally and vertically integrated team research (multidisciplinary) with dedicated graduate students, postdocs and faculty
- In collaboration with sponsors from local, state and federal governments
- Expert training in essential tools for statistical computing, including Hadoop, R, Python, and GIS
- Professional training through development workshops and seminars
- Individualized mentors working closely with students
- Opportunity to interact with decision-makers in industry and government agencies and attend policy events on Capitol Hill and the surrounding area
- Technical report and publication opportunities

### Criteria for Open Data Portals Offer Best Practices for Websites

- AUGUST 1, 2016  
POSTED IN: DEVELOPMENT TUTORIAL, NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

Mark Almanza, Virginia Tech; Madison Arnsbarger, Virginia Tech; Jessica Flynn, Cornell University; Adrienne Rogers, Virginia Tech; Will Sandholtz, University of California Berkeley; Emily Stark, Austin Peay State University; and Iowa State University graduate students Millicent Grant and Samantha Tyner



DSPG 2017 fellows, undergraduate students, SDAL faculty and postdocs during a training.

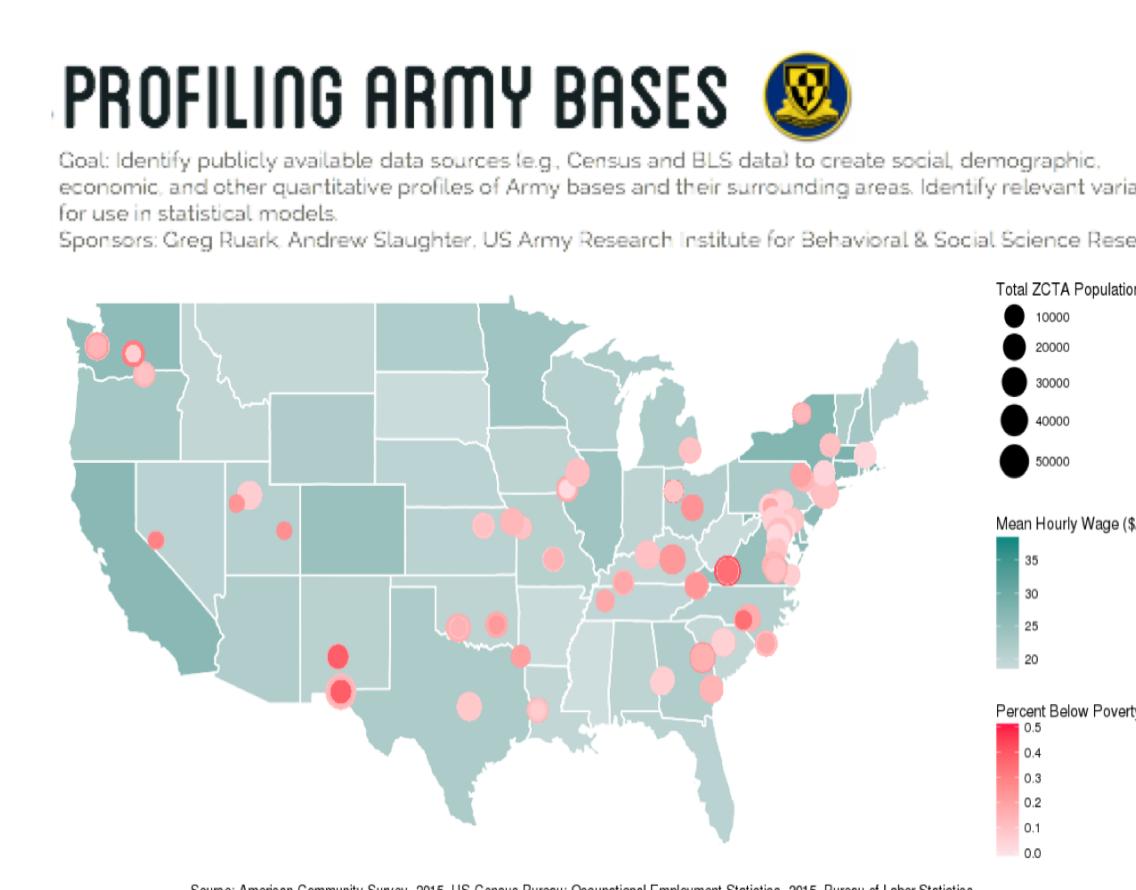
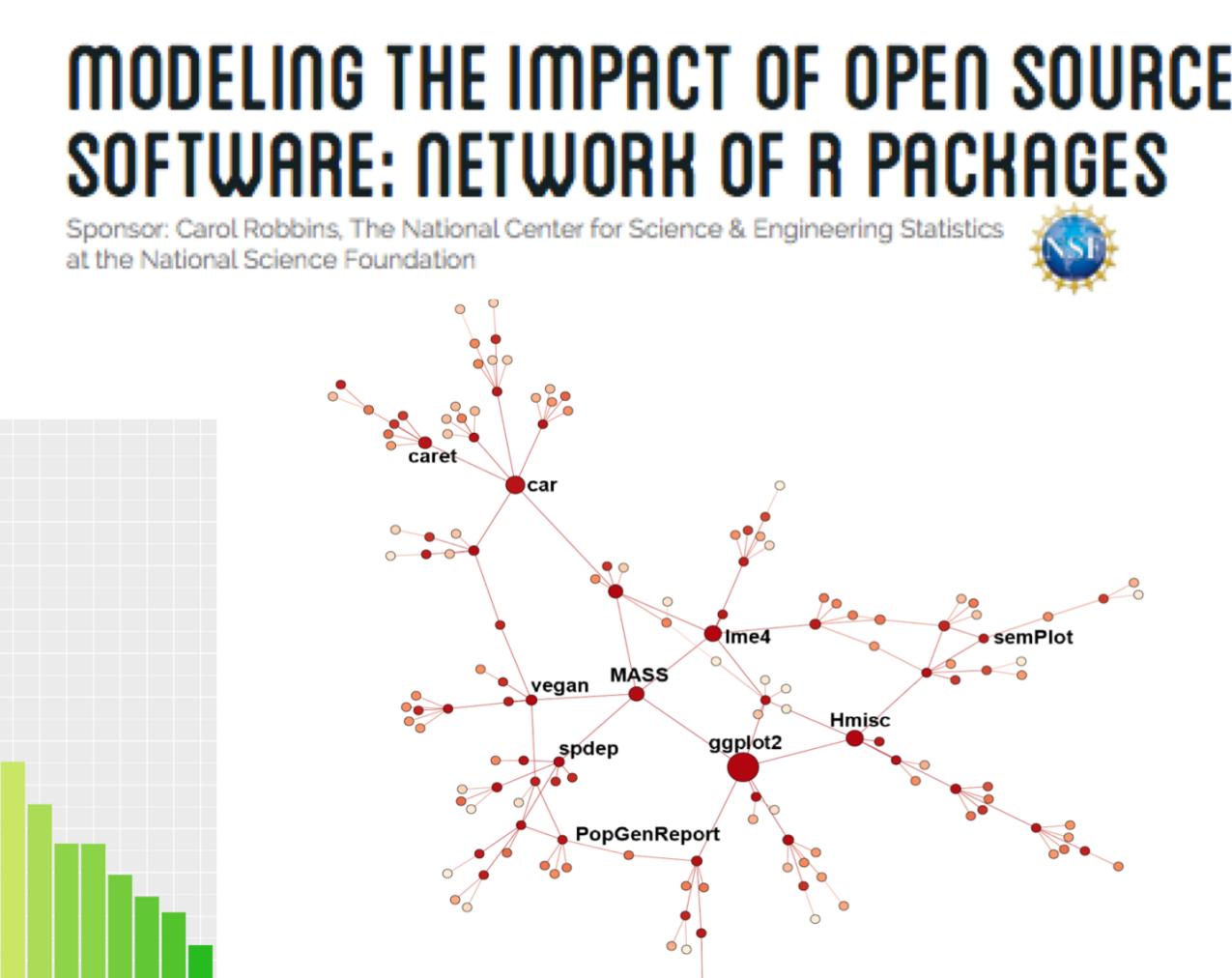
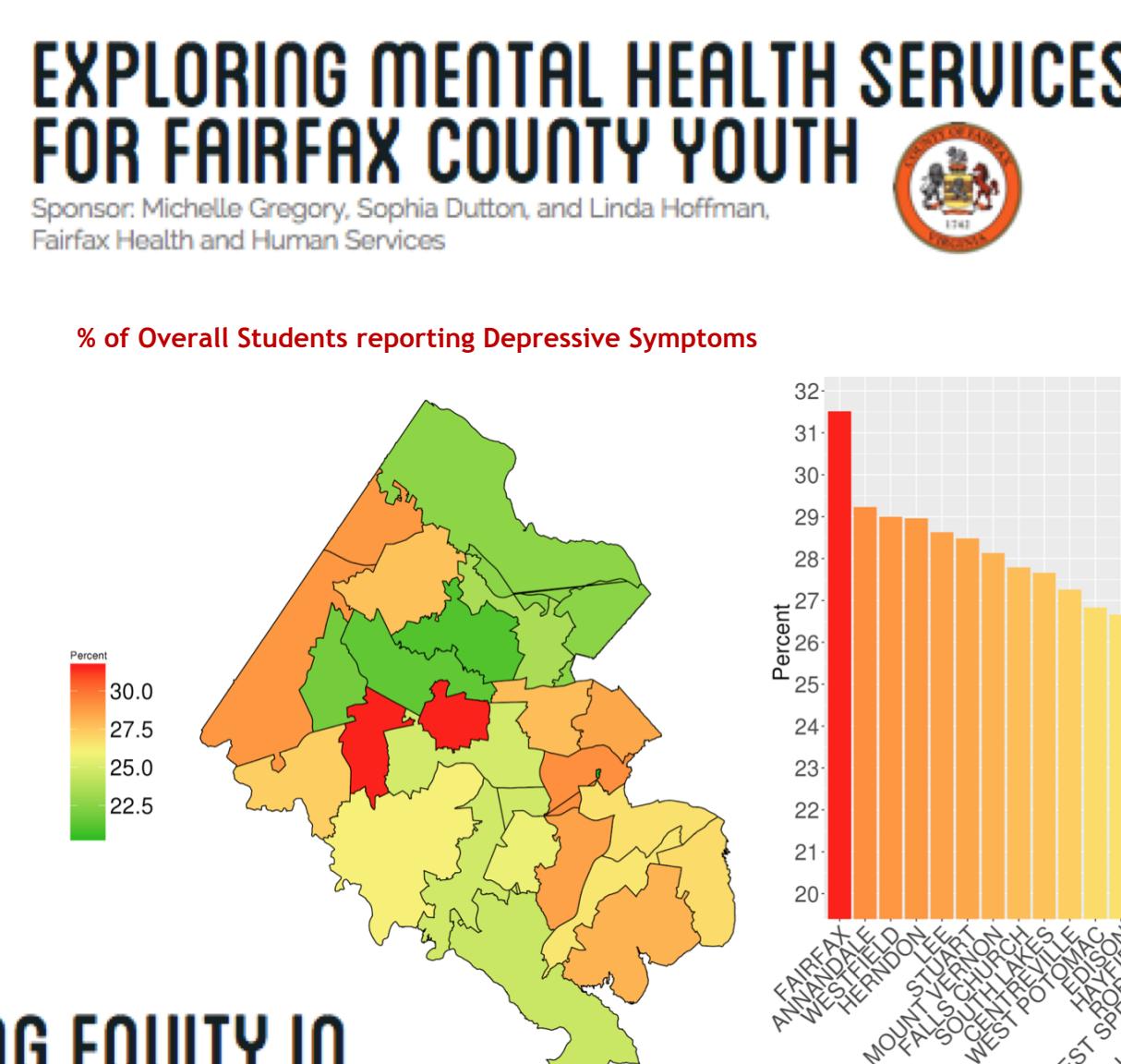
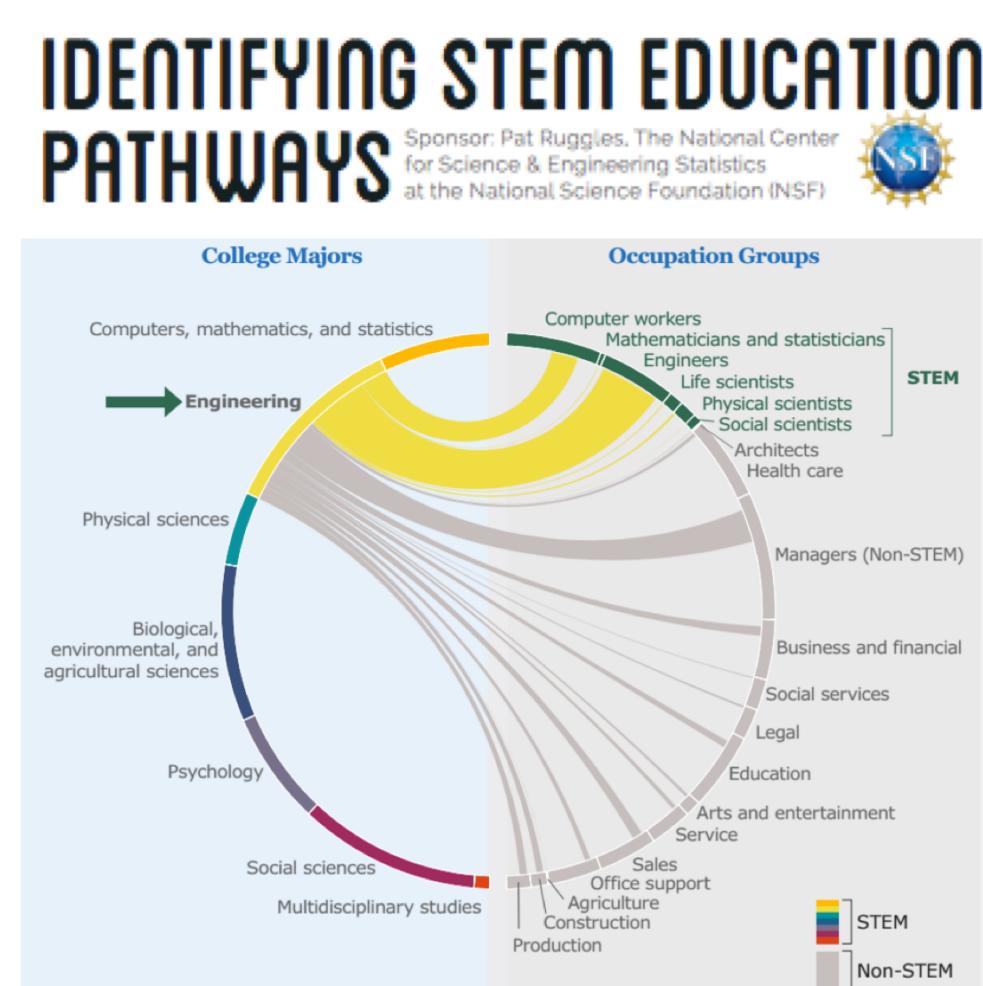
## DSPG Fellows

- Graduate students (Masters and PhD) enrolled at any U.S. university can apply for funded fellowship positions
- Selection through a competitive national search
- Possess high quantitative, statistical, computational and programming skills
- Lead, support, and guide the VT undergraduate students together with SDAL faculty and postdocs



DSPG 2018 fellows, undergraduate students, and alumni during the DSPG Symposium at Virginia Tech Research Center in Arlington.

## A Wide Variety of Projects



## DSPG Symposium



DSPG Directors Gizem Korkmaz and Aaron Schroeder with 2018 Fellows Zarni Htet (NYU), Claire Kelling (PSU) and Lata Kodali (VT)



## Thanks to Our Sponsors



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