The Casper College Statistics Program: Making Advanced Statistics Accessible to Undergraduates

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Abstract
With the introduction of three new upper-level statistics courses in 2006, the Statistics Department at Casper College in Casper, Wyoming began offering a two-year statistics degree. These advanced statistics courses require no mathematics beyond College Algebra, yet give students a chance to work with statistical software and real data. The focus of the courses was completely and correctly analyzing real data set.

   We believe that our advanced statistical course offerings and two-year statistics degree are largely unknown outside of the state of Wyoming. The purpose of this article is to attempt to add to the discussion by describing the process by which the course offerings and the degree came into existence at Casper College. Furthermore, we discuss the degree to which the program has been successful and challenges it will face in the near future.

Key Words: undergraduate statistics minor, two-year statistics degree, back transfer

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Raymond Steinbacher (raymondsteinbacher@yahoo.com) earned a BS in mathematics from Penn State University and a MS in applied statistics from Ohio State University. He was an instructor of statistics and mathematics at Penn State, then at University of Delaware, and finally at Ohio State University over a period of nearly twenty years. At age 49, he left the east for the west—first at Front Range Community College in Fort Collins, CO for two years, then in 2001, to Casper College in Wyoming where he was asked to create a Statistics Department and to offer some advanced statistics courses. The result was the AS Applied Statistics program. Those thirteen years at Casper College were, by far, the best of his entire career. He retired in May 2014 and is now creating a model railroad empire in his spare room.