THE CONSORTIUM FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF UNDERGRADUATE STATISTICS EDUCATION (CAUSE)

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The Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education (CAUSE) is a national organization in the United States whose mission is to support and advance undergraduate statistics education, in four target areas: resources, professional development, outreach, and research. The overarching goals for CAUSE in each area are:

• **Resources**: Collect, review, develop, and disseminate resources for members of the undergraduate statistics education community.

• **Professional Development**: Coordinate, develop, and disseminate opportunities and programs for teachers and others involved in statistics education projects and initiatives, present and future.

• **Outreach**: Establish and promote links and collaborations among statistics educators, as well as with other professional organizations and disciplines that are concerned with undergraduate statistics education.

• **Research**: Establish the area of statistics education research as a recognized discipline with a visible presence. Prepare and connect researchers from all disciplines that conduct research in statistics education.

These goals are being addressed by several current CAUSE initiatives including:

i) **CAUSEweb**, a comprehensive online resource for undergraduate statistics educators. This digital library (www.causeweb.org) was launched in August of 2004 and already features a searchable annotated listing of more than 2000 reference articles in statistics education, more than 1200 high quality resources for teaching statistics, nearly 40 cartoons for free use by statistics instructors, and a growing collection of refereed items providing the core of the library's holdings. CAUSEweb is a partner in the Math Gateway portal of digital resources in the mathematical sciences and the CAUSEweb editorial board also serves as the statistics community in MERLOT (www.merlot.org). Resources deposited in the CAUSEweb library are available for harvesting by the Open Archives Initiative and as a result become part of the broader interconnected NSDL.

ii) **CAUSEway**, a national program of workshops in the U.S. geared toward three target audiences: introductory statistics instructors, mathematics educators who include statistical content in the education of pre-service mathematics teachers, and statisticians who wish to develop or refine undergraduate major or minor programs in statistics.

iii) **USCOTS**, the United States Conference On Teaching Statistics, is a biennial active working conference that serves to help statistics instructors connect to a variety of year round programs in statistics education, to collaborate with others and then contribute back to the community. The first USCOTS attracted over 300 participants to Columbus, Ohio in May, 2005 (www.causeweb.org/uscots).