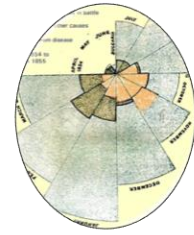




## **Sixth Annual Florence Nightingale Day at The Ohio State University**



The sixth annual Florence Nightingale Day (FN Day) at the Ohio State University (OSU) took place on November 4, 2023, on the Columbus campus.

The OSU FN Day continues to draw student participants from all over the state. A total of 45 students, some from as far as the Cleveland area, attended the inspiring event.

The day started with a scavenger hunt, a new activity introduced this year to provide students with more opportunities for networking and getting to know their fellow participants and event volunteers. Students roamed the hall and interacted with others while seeking answers to clues such as “Find a participant who attends a different school from the one you attend” and “Find a college student volunteer who is taking a statistics class right now.” There were also thought-provoking questions “posed by Nightingale herself,” such as “I believe that we should use data to better understand society. Give an example of a question about your community that would benefit from data.”

The students then heard from a panel of professionals in academia and industry, who discussed a variety of career paths in statistics and data science and how knowledge gained from studying these fields may be used to solve real-life problems. The students engaged with panel members by asking various excellent questions, showing their enthusiasm for potentially pursuing career opportunities in data-related fields.

Following the panel session, students gained hands-on exposure through a number of small group activities, including the returns of favorites (Experimental Design with the Statapult and Monty Hall) as well as a newly added activity (AI – Happy or Sad). For Monty Hall, we introduced a new variant this year to increase student engagement: in addition to playing the game as a group at the board initially, students also explored the concept in pairs using playing cards. The new AI activity introduced this year was training a machine learning model to predict whether a person is happy or sad using their facial expression.

Finally, students were treated to a panel discussion involving current OSU undergraduate and graduate students from Statistics, Biostatistics, and Data Science. They learned about the various ways to pursue a degree in data-related fields. The

discussion included questions regarding differences in various options, courses, and research projects. The day wrapped up with presentations from two companies pitching their data-related work to the budding future statisticians/data scientists and an awards ceremony with raffle prizes for scavenger hunt winners.

It was another successful year of the Florence Nightingale Day at OSU! Through pre- and post-surveys, we learned that, after the day of activities, many of the students came away from the event more interested in using statistics in real-life situations and more likely to consider statistics/data science as a college major or career.

The Florence Nightingale Day event was sponsored by the Ohio State University Departments of Statistics in the College of Arts and Sciences, Division of Biostatistics in the College of Public Health, College of Nursing, Translational Data Analytics Institute, and the OSU Newark Campus. Our sponsors also included American Statistical Association Columbus Chapter, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute, Caucus for Women in Statistics, American Electric Power, and individual contributors.