The demand for people educated in statistics and data science has grown tremendously over the past decade. To respond to this increased attention to statistics in society and work force, it is imperative that we foster data proficiency in K-16 education. The push by states to adopt the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics promises to be a large leap forward in promoting statistics education in K-12 public schools. The standards contain a substantial amount of statistics at the middle and high school levels, an emphasis that is not only welcome, but very much needed. However, the implementation of the new standards brings to light many challenges at the K-12 level as well as at the postsecondary level. In this talk, specific challenges related to teacher preparation and the study of data science will be discussed. Research on a series of initiatives that may offer potential solutions to such challenges will be presented.

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