DATAWORKS: Building Smart Community Capacity

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IRG 2, 2019

DataWorks recruits people from minoritized groups in computing and trains and employs them as data wranglers. Through DataWorks, we hope to broaden participation in computing, foster diverse approaches to data science, support equitable labor practices, and develop just forms of engagement between universities and communities.

Community-Engaged Research:

Data shapes our lives, but **the people involved in collecting, cleaning, formatting, analyzing, and communicating data** to inform decisions **are not representative** of the communities these decisions affect. We collaborate with residents, researchers, and organizations to address this issue.

Intellectual Merit:

Our engaged scholarship is expanding understandings of critical data literacy in the learning sciences, contributing empirical studies of workplace democracy to participatory design research, and developing bold models of engagement for human-centered computing research on the future of work.

Current Activities:

- Prototyping novel tools & processes to support novice data workers

- Developing custom learning pathways to critical data literacy for members of minoritized groups in computing

- Studying workplace democracy & participatory design with novice workers

Immediate Impact:
- 8 residents trained
- 5 current full-time employees
- 1 trainee promoted to management
- 2 trainees advanced to other positions
- 20+ organizations served

Sustainability:
- 2022 SBIR to explore market opportunities
- Meeting with philanthropies and industry for growth
- Continuing support from GT leadership

Next Steps:
- Submitting secondary grant to support tool development
- Transition the organizational structure of DataWorks by July 2023
- Formalizing and evaluating learning pathways