

## STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Welcome, SDS Students!

As we approach Thanksgiving, we hope you have plans to relax and enjoy time with friends and family. Take this opportunity to rest, reflect, and celebrate.

Exams and graduation are right around the corner. In this edition, you'll find information on exam schedules, as well as Commencement resources for both undergraduate and graduate students. In our next edition, we will highlight resources for new students joining the School in January.

If you are a new student and have not yet registered for spring courses, please visit your [program webpage](#) for more details on course options and registration. You can also contact your advisor to schedule a one-on-one advising session.

Sincerely,

**Josh Hertel**

Director, School of Data Science



*Share your SDS story! Have an event, community meet-up, Data competition, job posting, or story idea for the SDS community? Please send your submissions to [Lindsay Lennon](#), SDS Communications and Events Manager.*

*Program Updates*  
AND CAMPUS NEWS

Student Advising Resources in the School of Data  
Science

The School of Data Science is committed to supporting student success through comprehensive advising resources for undergraduate students in the B.S. in Data Science and the Undergraduate Certificate in Sports Analytics programs.

Leading these efforts is Undergraduate Academic Advisor **Deanna Rella**, a professional with more than twenty years of experience guiding first-year and transfer students. Deanna provides academic counseling, assists with course planning, supports admissions and recruitment initiatives, and oversees a team of dedicated Peer Advisors.



**Maria Eduarda** is a Data Science BS student double majoring in International Business and minoring in Italian. She is currently a senior and serves as a Peer Advisor.

**Jason Labreque** is a Peer Advisor and a BS student majoring in Data Science. He is a senior minoring in Artificial Intelligence and is a part of the Early Entry program for the Master's in Data Science and Business Analytics.

**Shanthi Pillai** is also a BS student in Data Science, minoring in Bioinformatics. She is a current sophomore in the honors program on campus.

They offer peer-to-peer support by answering and advising questions, connecting students with key campus resources, and helping promote critical academic deadlines and events. Together, this advising team ensures SDS students receive the guidance and encouragement needed to excel academically and make the most of their UNC Charlotte experience.

You can reach them via email ([sds-sdvising@charlotte.edu](mailto:sds-sdvising@charlotte.edu)) or by stopping by suite 1028 in Colvard South.

## Preparing for Finals



Final exam week is approaching, so be sure to review your schedule early on the [Niner Central website](#) to avoid surprises or conflicts. No exams or required activities are allowed on Reading Day, giving students time to study and prepare. If you have a conflict, such as two exams at the same time or three in one day, University policy allows you to request a

make-up exam, which should be arranged directly with your instructor. You can find detailed exam times, conflict guidelines, and the [Final Examination Conflict Form](#) all on Niner Central.

## Graduation at UNC Charlotte

**Fall Key Dates & Ceremonies** - The Fall [commencement ceremonies](#) will be held in Dale F. Halton Arena (Barnhardt Student Activity Center).

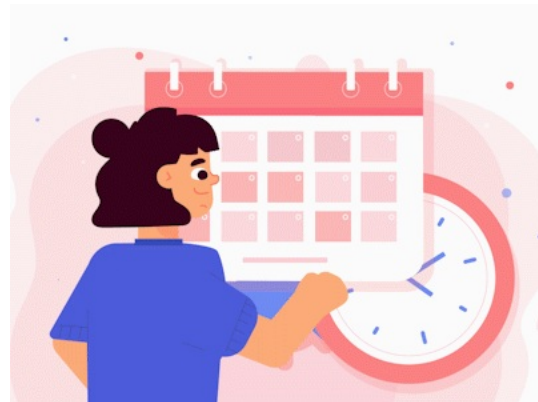
- **Undergraduate ceremonies: Friday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m.** for the Belk College of Business, College of Computing & Informatics, Cato College of Education, Klein College of Science.
- **Graduate ceremonies: Saturday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m.** for doctoral, master's and graduate certificate candidates.

### Spring 2027 Graduation

All students are required to [apply for graduation](#). The deadline to apply for graduation for the spring 2026 semester is February 12, 2026.



- November 26-29 Thanksgiving Break – No Classes
- December 2 Last day of classes
- December 3 Reading Day
- **December 4-10 Final Exams**
- December 12-13 Fall 2025 Commencement Dates
- December 24-January 1 Winter Break – University Closed



Find the full [SDS Calendar of Events](#) on the SDS website.

# School Events

SEMINARS, NETWORKING,  
& WELCOME EVENTS

## SDS Professional Seminars

Every Tuesday @ The Dubois Center

Each semester, the SDS is pleased to welcome industry professionals and business partners to meet face-to-face with our students. Seminars are held at the Dubois Center from 4:00 to 5:00 pm on Tuesdays. This semester, we will welcome representatives from notable companies such as Honeywell, McKinsey, and Gartner Research, among others.

[Find the complete list of seminars and Register Here.](#)

## January 20 | Student Internship Panel

Hear directly from CCI students about how to find, secure, and succeed in internships and capstones. This panel covers searching, networking, interviewing, eligibility, project proposals, and working with mentors—plus tips for professional development and building a strong portfolio.

## January 27 | From Data to Decisions: High-Impact AI & Analytics with Azure and Power Platform

Sujay Somasekhar, Principal Data Engineer at McKinsey, will share real-world examples of how Azure, Power Platform, and Databricks are used to build AI and analytics solutions. Learn which skills matter most in the industry and how to translate technical knowledge into business impact.



## February 3 | A Day in the Life of a Data Scientist in Financial Services

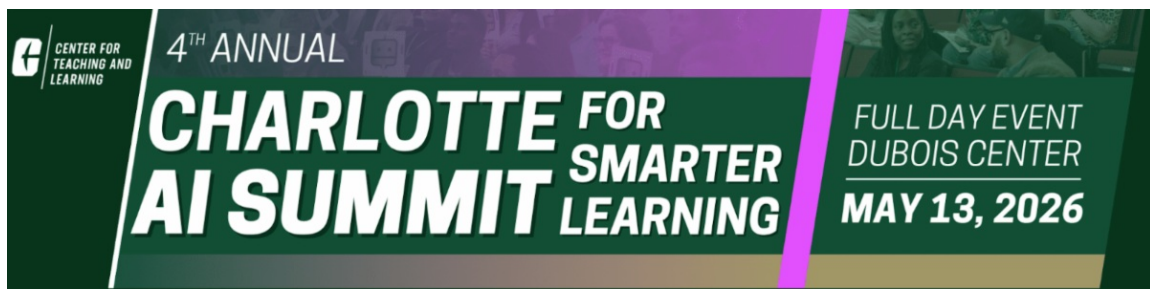
Join Sudeshna Banerjee, a seasoned analytics leader from Truist, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo, for an inside look at data science in financial services. Explore career paths, daily responsibilities, essential tools, and how AI is reshaping the

industry.

## February 17 | Agentic Coding for Modern Analytics

Join Greg Michaelson, Co-Founder and Chief Product Officer of Zerve, in discovering how AI “teammates” are transforming analytics through agentic coding. This session demonstrates how AI agents can clean data, write and debug code, and build reproducible workflows—helping learners upskill faster and produce higher-quality work with less friction.

## Charlotte AI Summit



The call for proposals and registration for the 2026 Charlotte AI Summit for Smarter Learning is open. [Learn more and submit session proposals](#) by Feb. 5, 2026.

## CCI Student Professional Development Weekly Newsletter



### In Your Inbox Every Tuesday!

Welcome to the new academic year and a new resource for your professional growth! All SDS students are receiving the CCI Student Professional Development Weekly Newsletter, curated by [Jay Skipworth](#) and [Carmalita Govan](#). This new newsletter replaces the CCI Business Partners Newsletter and is packed with professional development opportunities, seminars, job announcements, and networking events. Be sure to add it to your list of must-reads! You can also see details for events on the [CCI Events Calendar](#) (look for CCI Meet-Ups or Events). RSVPs on [Hire-A-Niner](#).

## Mark your calendars– Spring Events!

Charlotte AI Research Day



Tuesday, November 25, 2025  
12:00 PM to 3:00 PM EST in the Barnhardt  
Student Activity Center Salons A, B, and C

Join us for an exciting showcase of innovative, student-led research projects from the Charlotte AI Research (CAIR) community and explore how AI is shaping the future.

No RSVP is required—everyone is welcome! Hosted by the College of Computing and Informatics and Charlotte AI Research.

### Data Mining and Visual Analytics Poster Presentations

Tuesday, December 2, from  
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM in Woodward 335 .

Explore a wide range of student-led data projects covering topics such as AI's impact on jobs, video game and music trends, cybersecurity breaches, healthcare analytics, climate change, housing affordability, and more. This is a come-and-go event, with different poster topics featured each hour. More details available on NinerEngage. All are welcome!



The UNC Charlotte Career Center supports students and alumni in navigating today's competitive job market through career services, professional development, and employer partnerships. By collaborating with faculty, staff, and industry, we

provide real-world experiences—such as internships, co-ops, research projects, and clinical rotations—while empowering alumni to advance their careers. As trusted coaches and collaborators, we connect the UNC Charlotte community to meaningful opportunities for lifelong success. Below is a list of upcoming events and workshops. See the full list of upcoming Career Center events [HERE](#).

## Mark your calendars– Spring Events!

- **From Campus to Career: Alumni Internship Stories** | Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 12:00 - 1:00 pm- Virtual- Zoom
- **STEM Fair** | Thursday, February 5, 2026, 10:00 - 2:00 pm, Student Activity Center/Halton Arena
- **Spring Career and Internship Fair 2026** | Friday, February 13, 2026, 10:00 - 2:00 pm, Student Activity Center/Halton Arena



## Thriving in Tech: Conversations with Women at PepsiCo

Thursday, December 4 at 1:00 PM

We are excited to partner with PepsiCo for a powerful conversation featuring two leaders shaping the future of tech: **Andrea Epifano (Data Governance Director)** and **Alena Brown (Director of Tech Strategy and Enterprise Product – Procurement)**. In this session, they will share their career journeys, how they have navigated male-dominated spaces, and what it takes to stay current in such a fast-moving industry. They will also discuss mentorship, work-life balance, and the inclusive tech culture they are helping build at PepsiCo. A great opportunity to hear practical advice and inspiring insights from two impactful women in tech. *Please note: You must be a Pro Member to attend this event and to access full event details.*

[Register Here!](#)

## Charlotte Data Science Corps: Recruiting Student Participants

We are now recruiting Data Science students to join the Charlotte Data Science Corps, an NSF funded experiential learning program. Students selected for the Corps will work directly with local nonprofit organizations on real data challenges. This program provides hands on experience while helping community partners build their data science capacity and make data informed decisions.

**Program Highlights:**

- Work with nonprofit organizations on meaningful data projects
- Build professional skills and portfolio ready experience
- Make a positive impact in the Charlotte community

Please see the attached flyer for full details on program duration, expectations, and how to get involved.

# CHARLOTTE DATA SCIENCE CORPS

JAN-AUG,  
2026

## PROGRAM INFO

### COMMUNITY IMPACT VIA DATA SCIENCE

- Learning in the community and giving back to the community.
- Peer and faculty mentoring to level up your data science career readiness.

## WHAT YOU WILL GET

Real-world Experience solving data challenges for local nonprofits

Data Science Practicum course credits and up to \$2000 compensation

Be a proud change agent as a member of the Charlotte Data Science Corps

## LEARN MORE & SIGN UP

Questions? Email:  
datastewards@charlotte.edu  
Apply today to be data science career ready, and use your skills to uplift your community. 🙌



A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE BY UNC  
CHARLOTTE, JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY,  
AND CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL  
SCIENCE FOUNDATION



## MetLife Meet the Employer Event

December 16 at 11:45 AM (Virtual Session)

NC TECH and MetLife invite early career tech professionals and soon-to-be graduates to a virtual “Meet the Employer” session on December 16 at 11:45 AM. This is a great opportunity to connect directly with MetLife hiring managers and tech leaders, learn about current openings, desired skills, and company culture, and gain an edge in the job market beyond traditional applications.

**Registration is required.** Don’t miss this chance to explore career opportunities at MetLife and take the next step in your tech career!

## AI for Good Returns

Charlotte | December 4, 2025

Join NC TECH for a dynamic morning focused on maximizing ROI and developing responsibility in AI. This half-day program brings together top executives and thought leaders to discuss how organizations can adopt artificial intelligence ethically, strategically, and profitably. Enjoy breakfast and networking before we kick off with a panel on Responsible AI, exploring how companies are navigating governance, transparency, and trust. Then, gain exclusive insights during the AI ROI Executive Conversation, where industry leaders will share real-world perspectives on driving measurable value through AI. The program concludes with a panel discussion on demonstrating ROI from AI deployments, offering practical strategies for proving impact and scaling success.



## From the National Consortium for Data Science (NCDS)

The National Consortium for Data Science is a project of RENCI (Renaissance Computing Institute). Since its launch in 2004 as an institute of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, RENCI has been developing and deploying advanced technologies to enable research discoveries and practical innovations.



[Click here to learn more](#)

# DataBytes: Introducing ROBOKOP: Accelerating Biomedical Discovery

December 10 from 12–1 PM EST

Join us on December 10 from 12–1 PM EST for an exciting NCDS DataBytes webinar featuring Dr. Karamarie Fecho, who will introduce ROBOKOP (Reasoning Over Biomedical Objects linked in Knowledge Oriented Pathways) — a powerful knowledge graph system designed to advance scientific discovery by connecting and reasoning over diverse biomedical data sources. Discover how ROBOKOP can uncover mechanistic insights into disease, drug repurposing, and more through an interactive demo and Q&A.

[More Information](#)

## NCDS Career Event: LinkedIn Like a Data Scientist — Strategic Networking for the Digital Age

January 27, 2026, at 12:00 PM ET

Join us for an updated and insightful session with **Becky Brown of SAS**, focused on elevating your professional presence on LinkedIn. Learn how to clearly communicate your personal brand, refine your networking strategy, and build a profile that resonates with your target audience. Becky will share practical tips and techniques to help you make stronger digital connections and open more doors in your career.

[Register Here](#)

## SAS Curiosity Cup 2026 – Global Student Data Competition

Registration for the SAS Curiosity Cup opens December 1, 2025! Students can [join the interest list now](#) and explore last year's finalist projects for inspiration. This global student data competition invites teams to explore real-world questions using SAS technology. Registration must be submitted by February 1, and papers are due February

22, 2026. While this timeline can feel quick for students just getting into the spring semester, you don't need to start from scratch as many students revisit and expand on projects from previous coursework, adapting them to meet the competition criteria. It's a practical way to extend classroom learning into an applied challenge, and you can win prizes, including an Apple iPad and Beats Studio Pro Wireless Headphones.



# SDS Resources

## Free Access to DataCamp!



The School of Data Science and the College of Computing and Informatics have partnered with **DataCamp** to provide free access for all SDS students, faculty, and staff. DataCamp offers interactive, self-paced courses to help you strengthen your skills in Statistics, Python, and R, while staying up to date with the latest tools and techniques in data science. All currently enrolled students should have received an invitation email from DataCamp—please check your junk or spam folder. If you haven't received one, simply create a DataCamp account using your @charlotte.edu email address and complete [this form](#) to request access. Last month, DataCamp added 15 new courses and 3 new learning tracks, from Snowflake AI to Hugging Face, built to help you upskill in the platforms and workflows shaping modern business. [Start exploring today and stay ahead of the curve!](#)

## SAS Viya for Learners – Free for Students

SAS Viya for Learners and SAS Viya Workbench for Learners are a free, cloud-based analytics platform that lets students explore data, build models, and gain hands-on experience using the same software trusted by 90% of Fortune 100 companies. Work in SAS, Python, or R, create compelling visualizations, and develop marketable skills in AI, machine learning, and data analytics. Students also have access to free learning resources, certifications, and digital badges to showcase their expertise.



Also, **Looking for Internships or Careers at SAS?** Check out the SAS Handshake page and visit the [SAS Careers site](#) regularly for new internship and job postings.

*And...Curious about how AI is changing the way we live, learn, and connect?* Subscribe to the [Pondering AI podcast](#), where host Kimberly Nevala chats with innovators, advocates, and data scientists about the real-world impact of data and AI: good, bad, and everything in between.

# Campus RESOURCES

As part of our efforts to highlight campus resources available to SDS students, we have links to two campus units that may be helpful to you in your time at UNC Charlotte.

- **How to Access CAPS?** The Christine F. Price Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers free, confidential mental health support for UNC Charlotte students. Located next to the Student Health Center, CAPS provides same-day consultations, individual and group counseling, and crisis services. Call 704-687-0311 or visit [caps.charlotte.edu](https://caps.charlotte.edu) to schedule an appointment or learn more. After hours, call the same number and press 1 to reach a counselor.
- **UNC Charlotte Student Legal Services (SLS)** provides free, confidential legal assistance to SDS students who have paid the Student Activities Fee. SLS can help with leases, contracts, employment issues, and other personal legal matters, but cannot assist with disputes involving other students, the University, or the State. Summer eligibility is limited to students who graduated in Spring 2025, paid the Summer 2025 activity fee, or will be assessed the fee in Fall 2025, depending on office capacity.

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# Student Government NEWS

## ADS and SGA– A Voice for Students

The School of Data Science is proud to have two dedicated student government organizations that elevate the student experience and ensure every voice is heard: one serving undergraduate students and the other supporting graduate learners across our data-driven degree programs.

The Association of Data Science (ADS) represents undergraduates who are passionate about data. Through events, workshops, town halls, and professional networking opportunities, ADS helps students grow both academically and socially. Their leadership team works closely with students to support professional

development, advocate for student needs, and even assist with travel requests for conference participation.

*Graduate students* in the Data Science and Business Analytics (DSBA) and Health Informatics and Analytics (HIA) programs are represented by the [SDS Graduate Student Council](#). Dedicated to strengthening community and supporting student success, the council leads initiatives such as industry panels, networking sessions, skill-building workshops, and social gatherings. Council officers advocate for student needs and help create opportunities for collaboration across programs.

Together, these two organizations ensure that every student in the School of Data Science has the support, community, and representation needed to thrive. This spring, they will organize several mentoring events, student socials, networking opportunities, and town halls to help students engage with SDS leadership. We will also have elections for next year's officers. Please visit their websites for more information on how to participate.



## IT Job Trends Dashboard

NC TECH has released its latest IT Job Trends Dashboard, offering a snapshot of the current tech hiring landscape across North Carolina. October data shows a 3.4% dip in statewide IT job postings—mirroring national year-over-year declines—as



employers continue to move cautiously in tech hiring. Software developer roles remain the most in-demand job category, with wage growth softening and broader economic uncertainty contributing to a slower market.

Read more [HERE](#).

## Burtch Works Publishes Latest Report on Data Science and AI Hiring Trends for 2025

Burtch Works, a U.S.-based talent solutions partner specializing in data, analytics, and artificial intelligence, has released its latest report on Data Science and AI Hiring Trends. Burtch Works is a leading voice in understanding



workforce dynamics across the AI and Data Science landscape. The new report highlights key shifts in 2025, including the move of GenAI from pilots to production, a growing demand for applied LLM engineers, and an ongoing talent shortage. It also notes the evolution of AI innovation labs into ROI-driven productization hubs and a tightening job market for new graduates. While U.S. AI-related job postings have more than doubled this year, economic uncertainty has made employers more selective, with hiring expanding beyond engineering into marketing, sales, and customer success.

[READ THEIR FULL REPORT HERE](#)



Below is a current listing of postings shared with the SDS team or posted on the [Career Center's Hire-a-Niner site](#). If you are interested in sharing a position posting, you can email the information directly to [Joshua Hertel \(jhertel@charlotte.edu\)](mailto:jhertel@charlotte.edu) or access the full UNC Charlotte community through the Career Center- See Below.

## Wake Forest University School of Medicine's Department of Biostatistics & Data Science

Wake Forest University School of Medicine's Department of Biostatistics & Data Science is recruiting undergraduate and graduate interns for a paid 8-week Summer 2026 internship (June 1–July 24) in data science-related fields. Interns will work alongside biostatisticians, programmers, epidemiologists, and public health researchers on real-world datasets from clinical trials, medical records, imaging, and more. The program includes **part-time or full-time options**, requires **at least one in-person day per week**, and prioritizes students from North Carolina and surrounding states. Located in Winston-Salem's Innovation Quarter, this internship provides hands-on collaboration, exposure to high-impact health research, and networking with a large interdisciplinary research community.

### Department of Biostatistics and Data Science



Apply by January. [View more information here.](#)

## More Internships

- [Applied Gen AI/Data Scientist Graduate Intern](#), High Mark Health Raleigh, NC
- [Future Talent Program](#), Bioanalytical Data Science Intern, Merck West Point, PA
- [Business Analyst Intern](#), Insight Global Charlotte, NC
- [Graduate Data Science Intern](#), Delta Airlines Atlanta, GA
- [Graduate Leadership Program - Data Analytics](#), PMG Dallas, TX
- [Data Science Graduate Internship](#), CVS Health multiple locations nationwide
- [AI & Analytics Intern](#), Lennox International Richardson, TX
- [Data & Analytics Intern](#), MetLife Cary, NC
- [Working in Technology\(WiT\) Data Science](#), William Blair Chicago, IL
- [Data Analyst Intern](#), Waystar Duluth, GA
- [Data Science Intern](#), Veritiv Atlanta, GA
- [Grad Student Intern](#), Nursing Operations UNC Health Chapel Hill, NC

## Jobs

- [Data Scientist](#), Tata Consultancy Charlotte, NC
- [Data Analyst](#), Toyota Plano, TX
- [Data Analyst](#), ExxonMobil, Houston, TX
- [Data Scientist](#), Jerry multiple locations nationwide
- [Actuarial Analyst](#), Key Risk High Point
- [Performance Analyst](#), The Hartford multiple locations nationwide
- [Data Scientist](#), Tata Consultancy Charlotte, NC

## [CHECK HIRE-A-NINER FOR ADDITIONAL LISTINGS!](#)

Hire-A-Niner is UNC Charlotte's online career platform managed by the [University Career Center](#). It connects students and alumni with job postings, internships, on-campus employment, career fairs, and interview opportunities. Students access it by logging in with their NinerNET credentials, setting up their profile, and uploading documents, such as a resume. Once active, they can search and apply for positions directly through the system. Newly admitted students gain access a few days after admission, although with limited job options initially.

## Job Search Resources

### NC TECH Job Board

NC TECH is North Carolina's leading technology trade association, providing advocacy, research, and networking to support and advance the state's tech industry. In addition to their monthly IT Job Trends Report, they also host a jobs board. CCI and the School of Data Science are members, and students have access to the reports and job postings.

## Burtch Works Publishes Latest Report on Data Science and AI Hiring Trends for 2025

**Burtch Works**, a U.S.-based talent solutions partner specializing in data, analytics, and artificial intelligence, has released its latest report on Data Science and AI Hiring Trends. Burtch Works is a leading voice in understanding workforce dynamics across the AI and Data Science landscape. The new report highlights key shifts in 2025, including the movement of GenAI from pilots to production, a growing demand for applied LLM engineers, and an ongoing shortage of talent. It also notes the evolution of AI innovation labs into ROI-driven productization hubs and a tightening job market for new graduates. While U.S. AI-related job postings have more than doubled this year, economic uncertainty has made employers more selective, with hiring expanding beyond engineering into marketing, sales, and customer success. [READ THEIR FULL REPORT HERE.](#)



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### Kind Reminder:

Make sure to check the company career pages regularly – it's one of the best ways to catch new opportunities as soon as they're posted. Charlotte is home to many well-known employers across various industries, including financial services companies such as [Bank of America](#), [Truist](#), and [Ally Financial](#); healthcare providers like Atrium Health and [Novant Health](#); and energy and technology companies like [Duke Energy](#) and [Honeywell](#).



CHECK HIRE-A-NINER FOR  
ADDITIONAL LISTINGS



Alumni Recruitment:

# Share Your Opportunities with SDS Students

Interested in recruiting talented UNC Charlotte students and graduates? We remind you that as an alumni, Hire-A-Niner is still available to you as an employer.



Here's what you can do:

- **Feature Your Job in the SDS Student Newsletter:** Have a job or internship opening? Send it to **Josh Hertel** at [jhertel@charlotte.edu](mailto:jhertel@charlotte.edu), and we'll include it in the next SDS Student Newsletter, reaching over 800 current undergraduates and graduate students, plus 1,000+ SDS alumni.
- **Post Through Hire-A-Niner:** As an alumni, you can use UNC Charlotte's Hire-A-Niner platform as an employer, completely free. Post jobs and internships, Target specific majors or program levels (like Data Science, undergrad, or grad).

*Let us know when your post is live, and we'll promote it to SDS students via our newsletter. Questions? Contact the Career Center's Employer Engagement Team at [recruit@charlotte.edu](mailto:recruit@charlotte.edu).*

## Spring 2026 SDS Resume Book Now Available!

Spring 2026 SDS Resume Book Now Available! Each semester, the School of Data Science invites current undergraduate and graduate students seeking **internships** or **full-time positions** to submit their resumes for consideration. If your organization is hiring, we can provide access to the full spreadsheet and resume folders featuring our current talent. Email **Josh Hertel** ([jhertel@charlotte.edu](mailto:jhertel@charlotte.edu)) with **SDS RESUME FOLDER** in the subject line. Request the **Spring 2026 SDS Resume Book** and jump-start your recruitment efforts today!



## Update Alumni Information

Keep your contact information current, you'll be sure to receive the **latest information on SDS alumni events, news, announcements, and more.** With more than 100,000 UNC Charlotte alumni and 500 (and growing) from the School of Data Science, you can connect with other fellow graduates around the globe. [Click here to update your contact and/or professional information.](#)



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