

# The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize For Outstanding Statistics Project

**==> Deadline is May 10, 2010 <==**

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## OPPORTUNITY

The Curtis Jacobs Award for outstanding statistics project is an opportunity for fun, experience, and recognition – great for college applications and teacher development. It aims to encourage middle school and high school students to gain an understanding of the design of statistical studies and their uses.



## AWARDS



### Two 1st Place Awards (Middle School and High School)

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|--------------------|--|
| Students           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Cash prize of \$100 per entry</li><li>■ Complimentary invitation to Washington Statistical Society's (WSS) annual dinner for student</li></ul>   |
| Teacher or Advisor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Invitation to American Statistical Association's (ASA) special Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM) with registration, travel, hotel, and meal expenses paid (up to a pre-set limit). Held during the national statistics meeting in August 2010 in Vancouver, BC. <b>Passports for this trip are required.</b></li><li>■ Complimentary invitation to the WSS annual dinner</li><li>■ Plaque</li></ul> |
| School             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ One-year free school membership to the ASA</li></ul>   |

## HELP AVAILABLE

To assist interested teachers, Washington area statisticians are available to visit interested classes to discuss types of projects and survey sampling. For more information on the Curtis Jacobs Award, teachers may contact Tom Krenzke at (301) 251-4203 or [tomkrenzke@westat.com](mailto:tomkrenzke@westat.com). An available source of information on surveys is the series of pamphlets: *What is a Survey?* (<http://www.whatisasurvey.info/>) published by the American Statistical Association.

## Submitting a Project

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to students who attend a high school or middle school in the Washington, D.C. area. A teacher or an advisor needs to oversee the project.

**Rules:** Students may work individually or in teams of up to four students. Subject matter is the choice of the participants. The students must collect original data and submit an approximately five-page typewritten report that includes an introduction, research questions or hypotheses, data collection and analysis methods, and conclusions. A copy of the data and questionnaire (or data collection form) must be enclosed with the project report. Individual schools are responsible for implementing informed consent policies involving data collection on persons younger than 18 years old. Entries become the property of the sponsors (the WSS) and cannot be returned.

**Types of Projects:** The project should involve the design of a statistical study (preferably a survey) as a way of gathering information for making decisions, as a way to make comparisons among groups, or as a way of analyzing trends over time. **Students are strongly encouraged to write up science fair projects and submit them as entries.** Two examples of data that students might collect are expenses associated with automobiles and money earned in part-time jobs held by classmates.

**Steps:** The steps involved in a typical project will include those found in many surveys or other statistical studies: define the objectives and the population of interest; determine an appropriate method of random sample selection and data collection; develop a questionnaire or data collection instrument; select a random sample and collect data; process completed questionnaires or data collection forms; analyze data and interpret results; and finally write a report.

**Judging:** Each entry will be judged according to the following criteria: creativity in the choice of topic and objectives; understanding of the steps needed to conduct a statistical analysis and how well those steps are executed; definition of the population; utilization of an appropriate sample selection methodology; thoughtfulness of the data collection (i.e., survey questions); analysis of the data and interpretation of study results; and the overall quality of the written report. Entries will be judged by members of the Washington Statistical Society (WSS).

**Submitting a Project: The deadline for entry is May 10, 2010.** To compete for the award, submit a copy of the entry form (see reverse) and an approximately five-page typewritten report (with the questionnaire and data attached) to:

Tom Krenzke  
Curtis Jacobs Entry  
Westat  
1600 Research Blvd  
Rockville, MD 20850  
E-mail: [tomkrenzke@westat.com](mailto:tomkrenzke@westat.com)

## More Information

The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize was established in 1991 to honor the memory of a former statistician of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mr. Jacobs served as the chief statistician on many major Federal economic statistics programs, including the Consumer Price Index, which measures the rate of inflation in the American economy. The innovations he introduced are good examples of the practical uses of statistics and mathematics in improving the collection of data needed to inform public policy.



**Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project  
2009–2010**

Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society  
and the American Statistical Association

***Entry Form***

*Please print clearly or type*

Names of students on team: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

School or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher or Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry form and project report to the address shown below. Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date: May 10, 2010.

Tom Krenzke  
Curtis Jacobs Entry  
Westat  
1600 Research Blvd  
Rockville, MD 20850

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