How Do We Move to the Middle?
Meeting the Expanding Expectations for Statisticians in Business and Government

Robert N. Rodriguez*
SAS Institute, Cary, North Carolina USA – Bob.Rodriguez@sas.com

How can our profession prepare students and young professionals to succeed in new career opportunities for statisticians that are emerging in business and government? This presentation summarizes key expectations for statistics graduates that were expressed by corporate executives in discussions organized by the American Statistical Association (ASA). According to these executives, the greatest opportunities lie in the middle ground between purely technical and purely business roles. The presentation also describes how universities are responding with curriculum changes, and how the ASA is introducing professional development that equips statisticians to flourish “in the middle”.

Keywords: business analytics; data science; statistical careers; statistical training.