



Interdisciplinary Data Sciences



* IDSC Seminar Series *

Mathematics & Statistics Colloquium

March 30, 2016 3:30-4:30pm

Location: CHE 103

Presents

Dr. Michael Rappa

Goodnight Director & Distinguished University Professor

Institute for Advanced Analytics

North Carolina State University

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Title: Becoming a Data Scientist

Abstract: What is a data scientist and how does a student with the ambition become one? This talk will examine the rise of the data scientist as a major new professional occupation over the past decade. It will explore the necessary skills needed to practice data science in industry and government, and how these skills can be acquired—in formal academic programs and informal individualized educational pathways. Data on market demand and average compensation for data scientists and will be provided based on the experience of over 500 graduates of the Institute for Advanced Analytics since 2007.

Biography: Michael Rappa is the founding director of the Institute for Advanced Analytics and a member of the faculty in the Department of Computer Science at North Carolina State University. As head of the Institute, he leads the nation's first Master of Science in Analytics as its originator and principal architect. Before joining NC State as Distinguished University Professor in 1998, for nine years he was a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Appointed the inaugural Goodnight Director in 2015, his current endowed position is named in honor of NC State's distinguished alumnus and prominent business leader Dr. James Goodnight. Dr. Rappa has over 25 years of experience working across academic disciplines at the nexus between management and computing. An accomplished researcher and instructor, his passion is to bring an entrepreneurial and forward-thinking mindset to innovation in higher learning. His current role is to prepare a new generation of data savvy professionals for leadership in a digital world. Since launching the Institute in 2006, the Master of Science in Analytics has quickly become one of the largest and most selective degree programs on campus, and his students among the most sought-after and highly compensated graduates of the university.

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