

President's Message – December 2019

Statistics and Success

Nick Kristof (@NickKrstof), New York Times columnist, recently wrote an essay "[The Four Secrets of Success](#)". I was delighted to see that his first secret was to take economics and statistics classes. Kristof's second secret of success, connect to a cause larger than yourself, also appealed to me. ISI is a clear fan of the first secret and provides opportunity to do the second. Clearly, taking statistics classes is easy for statisticians to support, and connecting this study and knowledge to a cause that might even include sound policy and governance resonates with work that ISI actively promotes.



As an example, ISI helped develop and organize the program for a recent High Level Workshop on NSO Leadership Development in Tunisia. This is part of our ongoing efforts to partner with colleagues to promote capacity development. Former ISI Vice-President Irena Križman was a leader in this effort and ISI President-Elect Stephen Penneck, ISI Council Member Albina Chuwa, IAOS President John Pullinger and ISI Director Ada van Krimpen all participated and contributed to the success of this effort. I am grateful for their contributions and leadership in this activity.

The ISI motto "Statistical Science for a Better World" is a foundation and focus for our society, and provides a challenge for us. As we look forward to the start of 2020, I suggest that we embrace a new year resolution to address Kristof's first two secrets – what can we do to expand and enhance the impact of statistics education and professional statistics training and what are causes where statistics is positioned to impact these important initiatives. I am proud of the work that I see being done by members of ISI and all of the associations. I thank you for your many contributions to your communities and to our profession. I wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous new year.

John Bailer (@john_bailer)

ISI President

11 December 2019

P.S. You will need to read Kristof's article to find out his other two secrets.