Tintle Awarded $300K for Second Stats Textbook

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The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a team of statisticians, led by Dordt College Statistics Professor Dr. Nathan Tintle, a $300,000 grant to develop a second statistics textbook to follow the introductory statistics textbook he co-authored and published this year.

This is the third major NSF grant received by the team Tintle leads. The statisticians are developing curriculum that helps students understand the logic behind statistics and then draw informed conclusions about the data. Their introductory textbook, the result of significant ongoing research, was published in May of 2016.

"Most students who take an intro to statistics course never take another one," says Tintle. "One thing that discourages them is that typically a second statistics course requires students to take other math courses, like calculus, first."

According to Tintle, solving complex problems depends on the ability to explore and understand the relationships between many variables simultaneously. So, a lack of people who have experience with multivariable statistics is a problem, he explains.

In the second textbook, Tintle and his collaborators aim to teach multivariable statistics to students without background knowledge in subjects such as calculus or linear algebra.

"The foundation we laid in our introductory statistics textbook is a strong one to build on for the second course," says Tintle.