Data drives discovery, decision-making, and innovation. The quantity of data created globally is growing exponentially, and data is everywhere. Data touches all aspects of our lives, including our health, our environment and our role as citizens. However, our current education systems have not been equipped to produce either the workforce or the citizenry with the skills, knowledge and judgment to make wise use of the data streams that our technologies are delivering. Specifically, we the undersigned see a growing urgency for the promotion of global data literacy for the following reasons:

Our world economy and our jobs are increasingly defined by data and by the knowledge and skills required to use it effectively;

We are all perpetually producing streams of data, which we need to shape and manage to ensure our privacy and personal security;

Effective use of data empowers us to make objective, evidence-based inferences and fundamental decisions affecting our lives, both as individuals and among societies.

In light of this, we are calling for a revolution in education, placing data literacy at its core, integrated throughout K-16 education nationwide and around the world. By enabling learners to use data more effectively, we prepare them to make better decisions and to lead more secure, better-informed and productive lives.

Signed

Michelle Williams

Robert Ball

Andrew Edsall

Ryan Karp

Deborah Bassner

Randall L. Keller

Hunter Wax

Kate O. Sine

Kirk D. Greene

Odette Merchant

Aile B.

Peter A. Kuenheauel
Signed (in order of signature)

Michelle Williams, Williams Learning Solutions
Juan Miguel Lavista Ferres, Microsoft
Andrew Schaffner, California Polytechnic State University
Ryan Kapaun, City of Eden Prairie
Deborah Boisvert, BATEC
Randall Kochevar, Oceans of Data Institute
Hunter WhitneyHunter, Whitney and Associates, Inc.

Robert Gould, UCLA
Benjamin Davison, Google, Inc.
Clifford Konold, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Kirk D. Borne, Booz Allen Hamilton
Odette Merchant, Nova Scotia Community College
Michael Bowen, Mount Saint Vincent University
Ruth Krumhansl, Oceans of Data Institute
Steven Miller, IBM