

Mary Craigle (MT)

Mary is the Bureau Chief for the Research and Information Services Bureau and the Census & Economic Information Center (CEIC) at the Montana Department of Commerce www.ceic.mt.gov.

Mary is past Vice Chair and currently serves as a member of on the State Data Center (SDC) Steering Committee. She has been working in economics and research for more than 33 years. Her career includes several research manager positions with the state and running her own market research company for 15 years. Mary holds a Master's Degree in Quantitative Analysis from the University of Missouri and undergraduate degrees from the University of Montana. Along with work, her current role as Vice Chair for SDC she is also Board Chair for the Montana Community Foundation <http://www.mtcf.org/> She recently worked to facilitate the Main Street Montana project for the Montana's Governor Steve Bullock <http://mainstreetmontanaproject.com/> working with over 200 Montana CEOs on their needs.

1. What do you think the primary role of the Steering Committee is or should be?

During my time on the Steering Committee, I have been very involved in promoting the products of the SDC through the Clearinghouse and in the strategic planning process with the Bureau. Because of this experience, I have observed the role of the Steering Committee changing from a source of input to the Bureau to one of the key partners. A primary role as a committee member is to represent the SDC network members and work to address the concerns and issues that arise in the partnership. Equally important is the role as a conduit of information between the SDC network and Bureau. One of the most exciting parts of this role is the recent inclusion of the SDC in program and technology developments such as the new CEDSCI interface, data APIs, and message development.

I would like to continue to be a part of bringing this strategic plan full circle as a foundation for the Bureau and SDC's joint mission moving forward.

2. What would your primary goal(s) be as a member?

My top goals are to increase the awareness of the SDC network's value including having an annual in-person meeting with the Bureau to better understand each other's needs and how best to success. In addition, of the many goals I would like to accomplish, the top would be:

- To work with the Bureau to develop interactive applications such as the CEDSCI interface that put the data into the hands of those that need it at the time and in the manner that makes it usable. As the Bureau works on new tools and applications, the SDC relationship provides a wonderful opportunity to have data users at all levels involved in the development. This will lead to better tools and products at lower costs.
- To assist the Bureau in conveying the message of the importance of the American Community Survey and the Economic Survey to make sure these important programs are continued.

- To partner with the Bureau for the 2020 Decennial Census to ensure the most successful count possible.
- To find ways to promote and SDC network's value within the Census Bureau particularly as we head into the 2020 Decennial Census.
- To better support the SDC network members in providing informational products, messaging, tools, and training. Most of the members are operating in states with significant fiscal concerns and providing the means for network members to carry out the SDC mission in these conditions will remain a challenge. Success in this goal area will lead to not only to a stronger relationship among SDC network members but also achievement of the ultimate goal- providing usable information to the multitude of data users we serve that improves their lives and their communities.

3. What is your vision for the SDC network for 2017 and beyond?

The vision I hold is the statement in the strategic plan. The SDC network, as the U.S. Census Bureau's premier local partner, delivers accurate and timely information; prepares and provides training and assistance; assists the Bureau in achieving its mission; and fosters two-way communications with the Bureau on data usability, data user needs and operational issues

4. What do you think the SDC network can do to add value to Census Data?

I believe the SDC's are a key part of having a successful effort in 2020 as proven by the support given in past censuses.

I also believe the SDC is uniquely positioned to assist the Bureau on the development, delivery and use of all its tools and products. It is the experience of the SDC members and the **almost 40 year partnership** with our Bureau that gives us this perspective. Each SDC has developed products and services customized to their states needs. The SDC members provide a constant sounding board to the Bureau at no cost that is committed to the same goal – delivering the highest quality products and services to our all data users. We also handle well thousands of data requests leveraging the Bureau work at no cost.