

Karen Louie (CA)

I am currently the lead research specialist at the California State Data Center. Over the past five years, I have provided consultation and technical assistance to various data users on accessing and analyzing census data and I have worked with the U.S. Census Bureau and our affiliates to offer training throughout California. I think the SDC program is a valuable program and I hope to expand my involvement in it by serving on the Steering Committee.

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

I believe the primary role of the Steering Committee is to serve as a conduit for ensuring that the network's interests are represented to the Census Bureau. The Steering Committee facilitates communication between the network and the Census Bureau, helping to build a strong partnership that is necessary to effectively achieve the SDC program's mission to empower data users with understandable, accurate and timely information.

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

My primary goal as a Steering Committee member is to ensure that the SDC network is informed of the Census Bureau's planning operations for the various Census programs and changes to data products and tools. The network needs to be aware and knowledgeable of these activities early on so that they can provide feedback and also make preparations and coordinate efforts at the state, regional and local level. I would also bring to the Census Bureau's attention any concerns, ideas or issues raised by SDC members. It is important that the Census Bureau is cognizant as well as responsive to the challenges and needs of the SDC network.

3) What is your vision for the SDC network for 2019 and beyond?

I envision the SDC network serving an integral role in supplementing the Census Bureau's outreach endeavors for the 2020 Census and related programs such as the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). State-coordinated efforts are instrumental in achieving a complete and accurate Census, and the State Data Centers can engage partners throughout the states to build awareness about these programs and motivate communities to participate. These efforts further endorse the SDC as a premier partner of the Census Bureau.

4) What do you think the SDC network can do to add value to Census data?

The SDC network can add value to Census data by creating reports and other products that can be easily utilized by local data users, and by providing training and consultation to help users accurately interpret the data. Since SDC members understand the needs of local data users, they can also provide useful feedback to the Census Bureau regarding the development of data products and tools.