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STATE DATA CENTER
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We Bring Value-Added Census Data and Education to the User

October 23, 2017

Dr. Ron Jarmin
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road, Room 8H002
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Dr. Jarmin—

I'm writing today to recognize the Bureau's commitment to federal-state partnership in the extension of Census products, data, and training resources. Over the past 40 years, we've built a State Data Center network that serves both the Bureau's data dissemination goals and the varied needs of our 56 states and territories.

We're looking forward to celebrating our continuing partnership at the 2018 SDC Annual Training Conference, anticipated to be held in April 2018.

Our SDC Steering Committee and our state members have begun exploring themes. We're recommending a program that highlights 2020 Census preparations, product and resource updates from Census staff, and the innovative products, applications, and best practices of member SDCs.

We are aware of the budget constraints and challenges now faced by the Census Bureau. Still, as difficult as those seem, the Bureau's sponsorship of the Annual Training Conference is a key investment. It is a key investment for *maintaining the partnership* with your state-based partners, partners that bring in-kind support to the Bureau's efforts across the country. In our respective states, we fill in as your partners in a variety of settings – thereby multiplying the Bureau's reach.

As in past decades, just ahead of the decennial census, we will use our 2018 and 2019 annual training conferences to coordinate with Census programs that receive assistance and participation from states, SDCs and Census Information Centers. We are already working with the Census Geography Division, regional geographers, and partnership and data dissemination specialists in preparation for the 2020 Census.

We are also eager to continue providing input on the design and functionality of the new data.census.gov website (CEDSCI).

We look forward to planning this conference in close partnership with Census Bureau's Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office, Data Users Branch. We hope Bureau management will join us and participate in our 2018 annual training conference. Both our network and the Census Bureau benefit from this interaction.

Thank you for your commitment to the State Data Center program. We look forward to being in Washington in April. In the meantime, if there are new opportunities to support the Census Bureau, we are easily reached through the CLMSO team. And I can be reached directly at todd.graham@metc.state.mn.us or 651/602-1322.

Regards,

Todd Graham
Chairman, SDC Steering Committee

cc: Allen Barnes, Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity
Gregg Bell, University of Alabama
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Charles Rynerson, Population Research Center (Oregon)
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