Michael Moser, Vermont

1)   Brief biography.

Michael Moser is a Research Specialist at the University of Vermont's Center for Rural Studies.   When he isn't coordinating Vermont State Data Center activities he spends his time designing and implementing data collection methodologies, conducting analyses and reporting findings. He holds an M.S. in community development and applied economics and uses this background to inform his work in economic and community development in Vermont. In his free time Michael enjoys being active in nature.

2)   What goals or special perspective would you bring as a Steering Committee member?

I often find myself in a position of explaining the value of Census data to prospective data users. I would like to learn about and contribute to, new ways of communicating the value of the multitudes of available Census Bureau products.

3)   What is your vision for the SDC network and our partnership with the Census Bureau?

The SDC network provides an essential conduit for information-sharing among practitioners. In my experience, the SDC network is a resource and sounding board for learning about and applying concepts to my work in Vermont. Expanding opportunities for sharing best practices is an important component to strengthening local practitioners. The linkage the SDC network provides between the Bureau and local practitioners is also essential. Personally, I am curious to learn more about how these linkages play out in actual policies. Partnerships should exercise ongoing process improvement through transparent, continuous dialogue – and I hope to contribute to that in this setting.

4)   What can the SDC network do to add value for the data-using public?

Perhaps there is an opportunity to expand promotion and outreach of a wider array of Census data products among the data-using public. I often find myself looking to data sets outside the ACS in an attempt to answer more granular questions that Vermont data users may have. Providing more information to the network about additional resources, and about the interdependence of many of these data sets would be of value.