

Suzan Reagan, New Mexico

1) Brief biography.

Suzan Reagan is a Senior Program Manager for the University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research. As such she participates in the Census State Data Center program as a coordinating agency by putting on the state's annual data users conference. This program provides an important link for New Mexico to Census products and data. Suzan has over 20 years of experiences in analyzing industry and occupation statistics for New Mexico's economy. She comes from New Mexico's Department of Workforce Solutions, Economic Research and Analysis Bureau where she worked on a variety of programs involving Labor Market Information for most of those 20 years.

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

The State Data Center program is a really important network that can advocate for local areas concerns and assist the Census Bureau in their work. It's not that we just sit back and wait for the US Census to tell us what the results of their surveys are. We play a vital role in informing Census programs of potential local issues that could impact the quality of the data. We also play a valuable role in informing local communities about Census programs encouraging them to participate as well as in disseminating data products. The upcoming 2020 Census and current political climate makes this role more important than ever. It is vital to provide as much support as possible to each State Data Center and Affiliate over the next few years.

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

With the Decennial just around the corner, it is critical for both the State Data Centers and the Census Bureau to work together. State Data Centers need support from the Census Bureau and the Steering Committee so that they can better fulfill the data needs of their state and help the Census Bureau prepare and conduct a successful 2020 Decennial count. There is a distinct need to improve communication and provide means of sharing of best practices among the State Data Centers.

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

There are so many areas that the State Data Center network can participate in providing value added to data users. Local needs and resources must be taken into account. The network can help by advocating on data user concerns, providing local training, informing our local networks of Census news, listening to local needs and Census program needs, and creating value added data products for our local communities.