

## Mary Craigle, Montana

### 1) Brief biography.

Mary Craigle is the Bureau Chief for the Research and Information Services (RIS) Bureau and the Census & Economic Information Center (CEIC) at the Montana Department of Commerce <http://ceic.mt.gov> and <http://census.mt.gov>

Mary was Vice Chair of the State Data Center (SDC) Steering Committee from 2011-2015. She has been working in economics and research for more than 35 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 past Board Chair for the Montana Community Foundation [www.mtcf.org](http://www.mtcf.org) She recently worked to facilitate the Main Street Montana project for the Montana's Governor Steve Bullock working with over 300 Montana CEOs on their needs. She is leading Montana's efforts on promoting the 2020 Census and staffing the MT 2020 Complete Count Committee of thirty Montana leaders chaired by Lt. Governor Mike Cooney.

### 2) What special perspective or goals would the nominee bring as a Steering Committee member?

My top goal to partner with the Bureau for the 2020 Decennial Census to ensure the most successful count possible. As former Vice-Chair to the SDC Steering Committee, I am very aware of both the funding challenges at the federal level for the 2020 Decennial, the disparity in funding by states, and the history and reasons for both. I believe a key responsibility, as a steering committee member, is to provide support to every SDC – but particularly those with limited state /territorial staff and funding. I believe the SDC's are key to a successful effort in 2020 as proven by the support from the network in given in past censuses and the passion of the SDC members.

Other top goals include:

- 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, the Economic Survey, the Current Population Survey, and other Census products to make sure these important programs are continued.
- 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 small staffs and fiscal concerns. 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 and our partnership with the Census Bureau?

The vision I hold is a combination of statements from a past SDC strategic plan and the SDC Clearinghouse. "1,800 agencies – providing guidance and access to Census data. The SDC network, as 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

Since 1978, SDC member agencies and affiliates have provided millions of data users with access to Census Bureau data and related population resources. This significant support is provided by the network's dedicated local professionals in their roles as economic developers, librarians, demographers, and research professionals.

To accomplish this vision, 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, the Bureau, and other partners such as the ACS User's group.

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 50-year partnership with our Bureau that gives us this perspective. Each SDC has developed products and services customized to their state's 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.