

Nominees for the National State Data Center Steering Committee: Elections 2010

Allen Barnes – Arizona State Data Center

I am serving in my fifth year as the Arizona State Data Center Lead Agent for the Arizona State SDC/BIDC Network. I also serve as a Research Statistical Analyst for the Arizona Department of Commerce in Phoenix, Arizona. The Arizona SDC/BIDC Network consists of one lead agency, four coordinating agencies, including, the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records - Law & Research Library Division, the Arizona State University – L. William Seidman Research Institute, the University of Arizona - Economic and Business Research - Eller College of Management, and the Northern Arizona University – Arizona Rural Policy Institute. The network also includes 30 affiliates which represent many key academic, state, county, and city government entities throughout the State of Arizona.

Prior to the Arizona State Data Center, I served the Office of Facilities Management as an Administrative Assistant for the Arizona Department of Economic Security for three years. I came to state service after serving 10 years in the private sector.

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

I feel that the primary role of the Steering Committee should be as a dedicated conduit between each individual SDC and their data user community, and the CLMSO to the U.S. Census Bureau and all of its relevant programs. As a conduit, the Steering Committee members should work to bring issues, problems, feedback and new ideas from the data communities and SDCs to the attention of the U.S. Census Bureau through its conduit the CLMSO or in some cases, the Census Bureau programs themselves. At the same time, the Steering Committee should also oversee that these issues, problems, feedback and new ideas get proper consideration from the Census Bureau and that the outcomes are clearly and properly relayed back to the SDCs and to their data communities.

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

I feel that my primary goal would be to serve, to the best of my ability, as a representative of all SDCs, their relevant partnerships, and data communities. My actions would be to bring issues, problems, feedback and new ideas from our constituents to the committee, and upon proper consideration, relay the resolutions and outcomes back to the constituents. As a team member of the Committee, I would also be available to assist fellow members to continue the effectiveness of our SDC Steering Committee.

Warren Brown - Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia - Georgia State Data Center – Coordinating Agency

I have been involved in the SDC program since its inception. The need for an active SDC program in every state partnering with the Census Bureau has never been greater. Our audiences, ranging from sophisticated analysts to local public officials and volunteer civic leaders, need to understand the array of public data products that are available and how best to use these products. I have served on the FSCPE Steering Committee and am currently on the Board of the Association of Public Data Users. I authored the Census Bureau's ACS Compass Handbook for Researchers. I am on the faculty of the University of Georgia, directing the Applied Demography Program, with a focus on serving the needs of state, county and municipal governments.

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

Bring the concerns and needs of the state SDCs to the Census Bureau and aggressively promote a working partnership with the Census Bureau.

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

Work with the Census Bureau to improve the delivery of well designed data products that are useful to the SDC audiences; and continue the efforts to develop training materials for the increasingly complex data products such as the ACS and LED products.

Bob Coats – North Carolina State Data Center

Bob has nearly 20 years of service in the North Carolina State Data Center network working in the lead organization since 1997. He has been the coordinator of the NC SDC network and Governor's Census Liaison for over 5 years. The NC SDC lead organization is based in the NC Office of State Budget and Management where Bob is also a strategic management analyst.

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

I think the Census Bureau does a great job with a difficult task, but there is always room for improvement. The steering committee brings front line experience of applying Census data and tools to local needs, and that local experience and feedback helps the Census Bureau refine good products and services into even better products and services and helps the SDCs better serve our communities.

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

My goal is to bring my experience and the observations of my network affiliates to the steering committee in such a way that allows the committee to provide constructive review and input of Census Bureau operations, concepts, and products.

Clifford Holley – Mississippi State Data Center

I am currently the Interim Director of the Center for Population Studies at the University of Mississippi. I have been working with the State Data Center program since the early 80's. My perspective of the Data Center program is from an academic point-of-view, and I feel that my experience teaching others how to access and utilize census data would be an asset to the State Data Center Program.

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

The primary role of the Steering Committee is and always has been communication between the states and the Census Bureau. The steering committee should collect ideas from the other SDC's and compile this sometimes contradictory information into something that bests serves the network as a whole. As someone who has worked in the SDC program for most of my life I have seen the differences brought about by the work of the steering committees and even though the Census Bureau has become more responsive to the needs of individual states as the amount and complexity of data from the American Community Survey increases so to must the efforts of the Steering Committee increase to help get the maximum benefit from this new data.

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

My primary role as a member of the steering committee would be to continue the work of previous committees in communicating to the Census Bureau the wants and needs of individual states and to help shape Census policies and procedures to get the most from the data. I would also work with other Data Centers to share ideas and practices that increase the worth of the entire Data Center Program. Mostly I feel this is an opportunity for me to give back to a program that I have benefitted from for years now.