

## **Suzan Reagan**

I am in my second year at the University of New Mexico. I manage the Bureau of Business and Economic Research Data Bank. The Data Bank is a participant in the Census State Data Center program. This program provides an important link for New Mexico to Census development and products. I have over 20 years of experiences in analyzing industry and occupation statistics for New Mexico's economy. My experience was gained from my time at the New Mexico's Department of Workforce Solutions, Economic Research and Analysis Bureau where I worked on a variety of programs involving Labor Market Information for most of those 20 years.

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

The SDC Steering Committee is all about building community around the use of data to understand our local areas social economic conditions. It's about providing a frame work to help local members and their staff in reaching policy makers, grant writers, non-profits, businesses and the public with Census data.

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

As a member of the steering committee, I would actively participate to put forward the needs of our customers as well as the needs of the affiliate members. The network has a large challenge in reaching out, educating and supporting the public in the use of data.

3) What is your vision for the SDC network for 2017 and beyond?

Looking forward to 2017, we see that "Big Data" is one of the driving discussion of the day and I can think of no bigger public data than what the Census Bureau provides. In an environment where data is seen as a key to decision making, the SDC program will need to provide strong support to its members. There are a lot of challenges as information technology continues to advance. The SDC network will need to be flexible to keep up with new developments.

4) What do you think the SDC network can do to add value to Census data?

The SDC network fills a very necessary roll in training, formatting, and analysis of Census data. The Census Bureau does a great job of collecting lots of data. There is such a demand to provide data in different formats and for widely different uses. Daily I see our customers struggle to find the Census information for their specific needs. Even when they do find the right piece of data, often times they feel unsure or have questions. I see the SDC network not only assisting the public in finding and using Census data but providing a wide variety of value added products to meet an increasing demand.