Jennifer Shultz, Pennsylvania

1)   Brief biography.

Jennifer Shultz manages the Data Services Unit of the Pennsylvania State Data Center. Jennifer has been with the PaSDC since 1992 and has held a variety of positions. Her responsibilities include project management for data collection, data analysis, mapping and digital dashboard development activities. Jennifer has worked with staff at the Center to produce both Population Estimates and Projections for the state and counties. Jennifer received a B.S. in mathematics from Penn State. Jennifer has served on the National SDC Steering Committee since February, 2017.

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

I would like to see further collaboration between the organizations in the network. I worked with the Work Group on 2020 Preparedness to collect and organize 2020 Census resources and materials available from network members – now available on the SDC Clearinghouse site. I would like to continue to work to expand this collection and work on other ways to share resources within our network. We can all benefit from the research, expertise, products and services available through this large network.

In addition, I would like to continue to work to expand opportunities for network members to share their expertise. I worked to plan several webinars and conference sessions where network members presented and/or discussed specific topics. We have received feedback that this is useful for all network members but especially those new to our network.

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

In planning for the 2020 Decennial Census, the role of the SDC network should include assisting with promotion, outreach, training, etc. In addition, we should continue to assist with activities to improve data quality, access and understanding while contributing local knowledge and experience. I would like to see the network continue its involvement in Census Bureau product development, specifically dissemination and visualization tools. I believe the networks knowledge of Census Bureau data and surveys along with its understanding of local data users' needs is invaluable to the Census Bureau as it continues to develop data tools.