



*Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics*

**ADVANCING EXCELLENCE IN FEDERAL STATISTICS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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On behalf of our member associations and affiliate members, we want to offer a heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Steven Dillingham on his new position as Director of the Census Bureau. We look forward to working with Dr. Dillingham and continuing the longstanding partnership between the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics and the Census Bureau.

Dr. Dillingham arrives at the Census Bureau at an incredibly important time for federal statistics. Not only is this a crucial time in the preparation for the 2020 Census, the federal statistical system faces unprecedented challenges that will require improvements to data collections, methodologies, and analysis in order to effectively carry out the additional 130 economic and demographic the Census Bureau is responsible for.

It is unfortunate that Dr. Dillingham begins his tenure during a partial government shutdown, which harms so much of our federal data infrastructure. However, we believe that Dr. Dillingham's experience at both the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics will benefit the entire federal statistical system.

Again, we look forward to a productive partnership with Dr. Dillingham and the Census Bureau at this watershed moment for federal statistics.

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*COPAFS was founded in 1980 to act as an advocate for the development and dissemination of high-quality Federal statistics, to increase the level and scope of knowledge about developments affecting Federal statistics, and to encourage dialogue between its member associations and organizations and the Federal statistical agencies. For further information, visit the COPAFS website at <http://www.copafs.org>*