



Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
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John H. Thompson Appointed Executive Director of COPAFS

WASHINGTON, July 12 – The Board of Directors of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) is pleased to announce the appointment of John H. Thompson as Executive Director, effective July 24. Thompson succeeds Katherine Smith Evans, who has served as Executive Director since October 2012.

Thompson comes to COPAFS from the U.S. Census Bureau where he served as Director until June 30, 2017. Prior to becoming Census Bureau Director in 2013, Thompson spent five years as President and CEO of the independent research organization NORC at the University of Chicago. From 2002 to 2008 he served as Executive Vice President at NORC. Before joining NORC, Thompson had a distinguished career at the Census Bureau from 1975 to 2002, culminating in his position as the Associate Director with responsibility for all aspects of the 2000 Census.

“COPAFS will benefit immeasurably from the expertise and experience that John brings to our organization,” said Linda Jacobsen, Chair of COPAFS Board. “Under his leadership, we are confident that COPAFS will advance its important work advocating for the Federal statistical system and the essential data it produces.”

A longtime leader in the social science research community, Thompson is an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association and past chair of the association’s Social Statistics Section and its Committee on Fellows. In 2000, he received the Department of Commerce Gold Medal in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the success of the 2000 Census. From 2011 through 2013, Thompson served as a member of the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) at the National Academy of Sciences. He participated in CNSTAT’s panel on the design of the 2010 Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments, and its panel to Review the 2010 Census. Thompson holds a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in mathematics from Virginia Tech, and was recently inducted into the university’s College of Science Hall of Distinction.

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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/>.