ASA Government Statistics Section

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Note from the GSS Chair

Greetings Members of the Government Statistics Section,

As summer draws to a close, I hope those of you who attended the Joint Statistical Meetings had a rewarding and inspiring conference. JSM continues to be one of the highlights of the year for our profession, providing opportunities to share research, learn from one another, reconnect with colleagues, and build new collaborations. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year's meeting such a success.

The Government Statistics Section was well represented throughout the conference. Our members organized and participated in outstanding invited and topic-contributed sessions that showcased the breadth and impact of government statistics. We celebrated the achievements of our award recipients, recognized the impressive work of our student paper competition winners, welcomed members and prospective members at our community table, and enjoyed the opportunity to connect with colleagues at our joint mixer. None of these activities would be possible without the many volunteers who devoted their time and energy to planning sessions, reviewing submissions, coordinating events, serving on committees, and supporting the Section throughout the year. On behalf of the Executive Board, thank you for your dedication and service.

One of the things I appreciate most about GSS is the willingness of our members to share their expertise and support one another. Whether through presenting new methodological advances, mentoring students and early career statisticians, or engaging in thoughtful discussions about the challenges facing government statistics, you help strengthen our community and advance our profession.

While JSM is behind us, there is still much to look forward to this year. The Executive Board continues to explore new opportunities to engage our members through the newsletter, webinars, and other virtual activities. We hope these efforts will help keep our community connected throughout the year, regardless of whether members are able to attend JSM.

As always, we welcome your ideas and involvement. If there are topics you would like to see featured in the newsletter, suggestions for webinar presentations, or other ways GSS can better serve our community, I encourage you to reach out. Our Section is strongest when its members share their ideas, perspectives, and expertise.

Thank you for your continued support of the Government Statistics Section and for everything you do to advance the production, communication, and use of high-quality government statistics. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in the months ahead.

Warm regards,

Jennifer Ortman
Chair, Government Statistics Section

2026 GSS Award Announcements

2026 GSS Award Winners

- **Terrance Savitsky**, Roger Herriot Award
- **Rose Kreider** and **Vicki McIntire**, Jeanne E. Griffith Award
- **Melissa A. Cidade**, Pat Doyle Award
- **Alexis Fleming**, Wray Jackson Smith Award
- **Darcy Steeg Morris,** Outstanding Section Service
- **Adam Z. Bouyamourn, Shreya Prakash, Arisa Sadeghpour, Sean Tomlin, Jungang Zou**, GSS/SSS/SRMS Student Paper Awards

2026 ASA Fellows in GSS

- **David Corliss**, Grafham Analytics
- **Carolina Franco**, NORC at University of Chicago
- **Theresa Kim**, National Institute on Aging, NIH
- **Lisa Mirel**, NCSES
- **Pushpal Mukhopadhyay**, U.S. EIA
- **Qingzhao Yu**, LSU Health – New Orleans
- **Jiwei Zhao**, University of Wisconsin – Madison

GSS is honored to acknowledge the contributions and successes of members of our statistical community. Here are the GSS sponsored and co-sponsored recognitions awarded in 2026. Congrats to all!

Roger Herriot Award

The Roger Herriot Award, established by the American Statistical Association's Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections and the Washington Statistical Society, recognizes individuals or teams who develop innovative solutions to statistical challenges in federal data collection programs. The award honors the legacy of Roger Herriot, former Associate Commissioner of Statistical Standards and Methodology at NCES and Chief of the Population Division at the U.S. Census Bureau.

The 2026 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics is awarded to

Terrance Savitsky



Senior Research Mathematical Statistician at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Dr. Savitsky is recognized for pioneering contributions that bridge survey statistics with Bayesian and machine learning methods, and for advancing innovative statistical research and applications at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and across the federal statistical system.

Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award recognizes individuals in the statistical community who have made a significant impact in mentoring junior staff within federal, state, or local government. Established in honor of

Dr. Jeanne Griffith, this award celebrates those who support the professional growth and career development of the next generation of statisticians.

The 2026 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award is presented to

Rose Kreider

at the U.S. Census Bureau, in recognition of her sustained, individualized mentorship of junior statisticians, helping them build technical and professional skills, pursue meaningful career opportunities, and develop the confidence to advance throughout the statistical community; and

Vicki McIntire

at the U.S. Census Bureau, in recognition of her exceptional commitment to developing junior staff and future leaders through thoughtful coaching, meaningful professional opportunities, and the sharing of expertise cultivated over a distinguished career in federal statistics.

Pat Doyle Award

The Pat Doyle Award honors individuals who have made a lasting impact on GSS and ASA. This award recognizes dedication and contributions to the government statistical community, continuing the legacy of Pat Doyle's influential career.

The 2026 Pat Doyle Award is presented to

Melissa A. Cidade

Chief Methodologist in the Statistical Methods Unit at the Bureau of Justice Statistics for exemplary leadership in advancing statistical methods, modernizing federal data collection, and strengthening the integrity and future of government statistics through service and mentorship.

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship

This scholarship, established in memory of Wray Jackson Smith, a founding member of the Government Statistics Section, aims to encourage young statisticians to consider a career in government service. The award provides $1,000 to support activities that enhance the recipient's exposure and experience in applying statistics to issues relevant to any level of government.

The 2026 Wray Smith Jackson Scholarship is presented to

Alexis Fleming

a PhD Student in the Department of Biostatistics at Vanderbilt University in recognition of a clearly articulated research plan building on a promising existing collaboration, a rigorous and reproducible methodological approach, and strong potential to contribute meaningfully to implementation and government applications, which are key objectives of the award.

Outstanding Section Service Award

The Outstanding Section Service Award is intended to recognize service to an ASA section. Each year, one-third of the ASA sections are eligible to present an Outstanding Section Service Award. This award recognizes individuals who have provided exceptional service to an ASA section, including sustained contributions or leadership on impactful initiatives.

The 2026 Outstanding Section Service Award is presented to

Darcy Steeg Morris



Research Mathematical Statistician in the Center for Statistical Research and Methodology at the U.S. Census Bureau for exceptional service to the Government Statistics Section, stepping into key leadership roles during a challenging period to sustain JSM programming, reviving and elevating the GSS newsletter, and strengthening communication and engagement across the section. Her willingness to go above and beyond ensured the section's continuity, visibility, and vitality.

2026 SRMS/GSS/SSS Student Paper Competition Awards

The Student Paper Competition recognizes outstanding research by undergraduate students, graduate students, and recent graduates. The competition highlights papers that introduce new statistical methodologies or innovative applications of statistical analysis to policy-relevant problems within the GSS, SRMS and SSS subject areas. Winners are selected through a competitive review process and receive financial support to attend and present their work at the Joint Statistical Meetings, where they are also recognized by the sponsoring sections, promoting emerging talent and contributions to the field of statistics.

Adam Z. Bouyamourn, Princeton University; "Where to experiment? Site selection under distribution shift via optimal transport and Wasserstein DRO"

Shreya Prakash, University of Washington; "Causal decomposition of Black-white disparities in NIH proposal discussion selection"

Arisa Sadeghpour, University of California – Berkeley; "Inference with weights: Residualization produces short, valid intervals for varying estimands and varying resampling processes"

Sean Tomlin, Ohio State University; "Characterizing retrospective constraints of survey designs for estimating population-level causal effects"

Jungang Zou, Columbia University; "Bayesian MI-LASSO for variable selection on multiply-imputed data: Application to an environmental health survey"

Honorable Mention:

Yumiao Hui, University of Virginia**;** "Measuring geographic heterogeneities in group effect using semi-parametric spatial effect models under complex survey sampling designs"

Congratulations to GSS Members Awarded ASA Fellow in 2026!

David Corliss, Grafham Analytics



For excellence in research collaboration across major industries; for pro bono operations ensuring ethical analytics and data for social good; and for service to the Conference on Statistical Practice, the Detroit Chapter, and the larger ASA.

Carolina Franco, NORC at the University of Chicago



For outstanding contributions to the field of small area estimation and for elevating its international impact through pioneering research, dedicated leadership, and exemplary service.

Theresa Kim, National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health



For exceptional clinical trials management of aging health systems research, excellence in mentoring for the largest ASA chapter, commitment to the US civil service, and protecting federal statistics within the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Lisa Mirel, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics



For exceptional statistical leadership and transformative scientific contributions that have driven the modernization of the federal statistical system and increased the accessibility of federal statistical data for data-driven policy and research

Pushpal Mukhopadhyay, U.S. Energy Information Administration



For contributions to the development of statistical software, especially the SAS SURVEY procedures; for original contributions to methods and computing for imputation, survival analysis, and small area estimation; and for service to the profession.

Qingzhao Yu, Louisiana State University Health – New Orleans



For visionary leadership in creating research infrastructure, statistical consulting, and education; for pioneering research in mediation analysis and Bayesian methods; and for dedicated service to the ASA and to the broader scientific community.

Jiwei Zhao, University of Wisconsin – Madison



For foundational contributions of semiparametric theory in missing data and distribution shift, innovative work bridging statis tical methods and clinical applications, especially in patient-reported outcomes, and outstanding service to the profession.

GSS at 2026 JSM Post-Conference Highlights

- **5 Invited Sessions**
- **5 Topic-Contributed Sessions**
- **6 Regular-Contributed Sessions**
- **1 Roundtable**
- **GSS Community Table**
- **Joint GSS, SRMS, SSS & WSS Mixer!**

The 2026 Joint Statistical Meetings was an outstanding success, and we are delighted to share several highlights from this year's conference. Thanks to the dedication of our members, collaborators, and volunteers, GSS had one of its strongest showings in recent years.

GSS sponsored five invited sessions, five topic contributed sessions, six contributed sessions, and one roundtable discussion. All were very well attended, with lively discussion and thoughtful engagement from presenters and audience members alike — reflecting the continued strength and relevance of government statistics.

We were proud to showcase the outstanding work of our joint Student Paper Competition awardees. Their presentations were well received, and the session drew an impressive audience. We extend our sincere thanks to the Social Statistics Section (SSS) and the Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) for jointly hosting and supporting this important event. Congratulations again to all our student winners.

The GSS–SRMS–SSS–WSS Mixer was one of the most vibrant events of the week. We were thrilled to see such a strong turnout, with students, early career statisticians, federal colleagues, and long-time members connecting throughout the evening. The energy in the room reflected the enthusiasm of our community and the value of creating spaces where members can meet, network, and celebrate shared accomplishments.

This year, we introduced a Community Table for the first time—a new initiative designed to give members a central place to gather, ask questions, and learn more about our ongoing activities. The response was overwhelmingly positive. We look forward to expanding this concept in future years.

As we reflect on a successful conference, we also look forward to continuing our collaborations with SSS, SRMS, and WSS. The strength of our partnerships was evident throughout JSM, and we are excited to build on this momentum as we plan for next year's activities.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of JSM 2026—our presenters, organizers, volunteers, and attendees. Your commitment to advancing government statistics makes our section thrive. We look forward to seeing you at future events and continuing the important work of strengthening our community.

Pushpal Mukhopadhyay
Program Chair, Government Statistics Section

Program Spotlight
FCSM's Evolving Role in AI for Federal Statistics

- **Organization:** Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM)
- **Program:** FCSM AI Subcommittee
- **Submitter:** Carla Medalia, U.S. Census Bureau and Brian Quistorff, Bureau of Economic Analysis

As AI redefines how the public interacts with federal statistics and transforms the federal government's ability to use new tools to improve the efficiency, timeliness, and quality of federal statistics, the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is poised to help the Federal Statistical System identify and share best practices on the use and potential of AI.

The FCSM is an interagency committee of experts dedicated to improving the quality of Federal statistics. As part of its work, the FCSM convenes conferences, subcommittees, and interest groups to support the Federal Statistical System and beyond. This brief highlights the FCSM's recent contributions in the realm of AI.

FCSM AI SUBCOMMITTEE

On April 30, 2026, the FCSM established an AI Subcommittee to improve the AI-readiness of Federal statistical data and the use of AI to make statistical products more timely, accurate, relevant, and efficient. The AI Subcommittee currently sponsors four working groups, each tasked with developing specific products.

- The *AI-Ready Data Working Group* is conducting targeted research activities on what it means for data to be 'AI-ready' and on challenges that statistical agencies will face when implementing AI-ready enhancements to their data, metadata, and data delivery. This group is building on the concepts laid out in FCSM Report 25-03, the Department of Commerce report on Generative Artificial Intelligence and Open Data: Guidelines and Best Practices, and National Secure Data Service (NSDS) Demonstration Project on AI-Ready Data as well as coordinating with other groups to avoid duplication of effort.

- The *Generative AI (GenAI) Citation Working Group* is developing practical guidance to help federal statistical agencies communicate the use of Generative AI (GenAI) in the production of federal statistical products. The group is examining emerging practices from government, professional organizations, and scientific publishers to promote transparency, accountability, and public trust.

- The *AI Federal Policy and Guidance Working Group* is developing an AI-powered tool that organizes, connects, and helps users navigate nearly 100 federal statutes, standards, guidance, and methodological resources related to the production of official statistics. The tool enables members of the Federal Statistical System to search across agencies and policy domains using natural language to quickly identify relevant authorities, guidance, and relationships among documents.

- The *AI and FCSM Data Quality Framework Working Group* is reviewing the existing FCSM Data Quality Framework through the lens of AI adoption for example, statistical agencies may use AI tools for components of statistical production and dissemination may be mediated AI agents. The group will produce a set of recommendations regarding whether and how the Data Quality framework should evolve given the adoption of new AI tools by both data producers and data users.

FCSM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The FCSM hosts an annual conference that brings together experts from across federal agencies to share and advance the development, application, and evaluation of statistical methods. At the 2026 FCSM Conference in Suitland MD, at least 5 sessions and 25 presentations focused on AI applications in federal statistical

methodology. Topics included AI-readiness, using AI to convert programs from proprietary to open-sourced languages, using AI to classify data, and much more.

The 2027 Annual Conference call for abstracts is out now and open through September 30, 2026. Federal employees are welcome to submit their proposals to further shape this dialogue.

AI DAY FOR FEDERAL STATISITCS

The FCSM collaborated with the Committee on National Statistics and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences to co-host the AI Day for Federal Statistics in both 2024 and 2026. These workshops provided opportunities for training and capacity building. Presenters shared best practices for using AI to drive government efficiency, modernize the federal workforce, and address challenges in serving the country's data needs.

AI BRIEFS

In 2025, the FCSM published *AI-Ready Federal Statistical Data: An Extension of Communicating Data Quality*. This brief outlined a vision for developing statistical Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) enhanced with metadata and context to support accurate and trusted generative AI results for large language models.

FUTURE WORK

These conferences, working groups, and other activities are just the beginning. If you have ideas for future AI working groups or products, please contact carla.medalia@census.gov and brian.quistorff@bea.gov.

GSS member subject interests are vast and varied…

Let's highlight *your* agency, organization, bureau, department, industry, program and/or project!

Please submit information to the GSS Publications Officer Darcy Steeg Morris at darcy.steeg.morris@census.gov.



Source: JSM program key words for GSS primary-sponsored sessions as of July 2026. Word cloud created using wordart.com.

GSS Executive Committee: Current and Future

2026 GSS Officers

- Jennifer Ortman, Chair
- Deliverance Bougie, Past-Chair
- Amy Lin, Chair-Elect
- Julia Schedler, Secretary/Treasurer
- Maura Bardos, COS Representative
- Pushpal Mukhopadhyay, Program Chair
- Ann Carson, Program Chair-Elect
- Darcy Steeg Morris, Publications Officer

2027 GSS Officers

Congratulations to newly elected GSS executive committee members!

- Amy Lin, Chair
- Jennifer Ortman, Past-Chair
- Jennifer Park, Chair-Elect
- Melissa Nesvold, Secretary/Treasurer
- Maura Bardos, COS Representative
- Ann Carson, Program Chair
- Saki Kinney, Program Chair-Elect
- Robert A. Tumasian, Publications Officer