

ASA⁺ Government Statistics Section

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Note from the GSS Chair

Greetings Members of the Government Statistics Section,

I am Jennifer Ortman, and I am delighted to be serving as Chair of the Government Statistics Section in 2026.

The past year was unprecedented, with real ups and downs, particularly for those of us engaged in government statistics. Even amid uncertainty and change, I have been continually inspired by the dedication of this community to the continued production and use of high-quality government statistics. That commitment matters. Government statistics are a vital public good, supporting informed decision making, accountability, and trust. I am proud to be part of a community that continues to lead the charge in advancing this work.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to those of you who joined the GSS over the past year. We are so glad you are here. To our long-standing members, thank you for your continued membership and support. Your ongoing engagement sustains this Section and the broader community we value so deeply.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the year to come. I look forward to working closely with our phenomenal GSS Executive

Board, a group of volunteers who generously give their time, energy, and expertise in support of the Section. Together, we will continue to sponsor high caliber GSS sessions at JSM, recognize outstanding contributions through the awards that GSS sponsors and co-sponsors, and take meaningful steps to reengage our community. I am especially excited about bringing back our newsletter and exploring additional ways to connect throughout the year.

Reengagement works best when it is a shared effort.

I encourage you to **send suggestions for newsletter content** to highlight what is happening across the government statistics community to Darcy Steeg Morris (darcy.steeg.morris@census.gov). I would also love to hear from you if you have **ideas for webinar topics or other activities** that could help us stay connected, especially for members who are unable to attend JSM. Please contact me at jennifer.m.ortman@census.gov or submit your suggestions via [Google form](#). I am optimistic that, together, we can crowdsource some great ideas and create opportunities for engagement throughout the year.

Thank you for all that you do to support government statistics and the GSS. I am truly looking forward to the year ahead.

Warm regards, Jennifer Ortman, Chair, Government Statistics Section

2025 GSS Award Announcements

2025 GSS Award Winners

- **Daniell Toth**, Roger Herriot Award
- **Yang Cheng**, Jeanne E. Griffith Award
- **Claire Bowen**, Pat Doyle Award
- **Elizabeth Wagner**, Wary Jackson Smith Award
- **Huiding Chen, Yuting Chen, Zhuochao Huang, Zhenhua Wang, Seth Adarkwah Yiadom**, GSS/SSS/SRMS Student Paper Awards

2025 ASA Fellows in GSS

- **Andreea Erciulescu**, Westat
 - **Jeffrey M. Gonzalez**, BLS
 - **Simone Gray**, CDC
 - **Chenguang Wang**, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals
-

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 2025. 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 2025 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics has been awarded to

Daniell Toth



Research Mathematical Statistician at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Dr. Toth is recognized for his groundbreaking application of machine learning to complex survey designs and his pioneering contributions to statistical confidentiality and disclosure limitation. His work has significantly advanced both methodology and practice—most notably through the development of the widely used 'rpms' package for modeling survey data. A dedicated leader and mentor, Dr. Toth continues to shape the field through innovation, collaboration, and service to the profession.

[Nominations for the 2026 Roger Herriot Award are open until April 10, 2026.](#)

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 2025 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award was presented to

Yang Cheng

Senior Research Mathematical Statistician at the National Agricultural Statistics Service in recognition of his exceptional dedication to mentoring the next generation of statisticians across federal agencies and academia. Known for his patient, thoughtful guidance, Dr. Cheng has supported dozens of junior colleagues and students – helping them grow technically, professionally, and personally. From nurturing early-career staff at the Census Bureau and NASS to inspiring graduate students at George Washington University, Dr. Cheng leads by example, fostering curiosity, confidence, and collaboration. His impact is reflected in the success and gratitude of his many mentees, several of whom attribute key career milestones to his encouragement and support.



[Nominations for the 2026 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award are open.](#)

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 2025 Pat Doyle Award was presented to

Claire Bowen



Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute, for her lasting contributions to the Government Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association. As Chair, she strengthened the section by clarifying officer roles, recruiting new members, and fostering an inclusive, engaged community – all while bringing energy and joy to every effort. Dr. Bowen exemplifies the spirit of the Pat Doyle Award through her leadership, dedication, and enthusiastic support of government statistics.

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 2025 Wray Smith Jackson Scholarship was presented to

Elizabeth Wagner

Senior Research Data Analyst at Johns Hopkins University, in recognition of her impactful research evaluating firearm policies and her unwavering commitment to advancing statistical knowledge in support of government service.

[Nominations for the 2026 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship are open until May 1, 2026.](#)

2025 SRMS/GSS/SSS Student Paper Competition Awards

Huiding Chen, Vanderbilt University; “Synthetic Sampling Weights for Volunteer-Based National Biobanks: A Case Study with the All of Us Research Program”

Yuting Chen, University of Maryland; “Impact of Existence and Nonexistence of Pivot on the Coverage of Empirical Best Linear Prediction Intervals for Small Areas”

Zhuochao Huang, University of Florida; “Causal Inference and Racial Bias in Policing: New Estimands and the Importance of Mobility Data”

Zhenhua Wang, University of Missouri; “Echo State Networks for Spatio-Temporal Area-Level Data”

Seth Adarkwah Yiadom, Ohio State University; “Formulating the Proxy Pattern-Mixture Model as a Selection Model to Assist with Sensitivity Analysis”

Honorable Mentions:

Snigdha Das, Texas A&M University; “Scalably Efficient Inference in Complex Surveys through Targeted Resampling of Weights”

Daniel Vedensky, University of Missouri; “Bayesian Unit-level Models for Longitudinal Survey Data under Informative Sampling: An Analysis of Expected Job Loss Using the Household Pulse Survey”

Students presented their papers in a topic-contributed session at JSM 2025.

Congratulations to GSS Members Awarded ASA Fellow in 2025!



Andreea Erciulescu
Westat



Jeffrey M. Gonzalez
Bureau of Labor Statistics



Simone Gray
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



Chenguang Wang
Regeneron
Pharmaceuticals

GSS members identified using the ASA GSS directory information as of March 2026.

GSS at 2026 JSM

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

The Government Statistics Section (GSS) is proud to sponsor a robust set of mission-enabling sessions at the 2026 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). In keeping with this year's theme—Communities in Action: Advancing Society—our sessions showcase the vital role of survey science and the rigorous application of survey research methods in producing trustworthy official statistics. Together, they highlight how government statistics strengthen communities, inform policy, and help counter

misinformation across statistics and data science. We are organizing [five invited sessions](#), [five topic-contributed sessions](#), [six regular-contributed sessions](#), and [one roundtable breakfast](#) as the main sponsor. Below is a list of activities sponsored by GSS. For more information, see the [JSM Online Program](#).

Invited Sessions

- Meeting the Moment: Communities in Action to Advance Federal Statistics
- Synthetic Data: Applications Across the Federal Statistical System
- Ethical, High-Impact Communication of Concepts and Results in Statistics and Data Science
- Opportunities and Obstacles of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Open Data Plan
- Building Robust Analytic Pipelines for Transportation Data

Topic Contributed Sessions

- Statistical Methods and Tools for Modern Cancer Surveillance
- Communities in Action: Advancing Society Through AI-Ready Data -- How ADC Accelerates Innovation for a National Secure Data Service
- Placing People Geographically Using Administrative Records
- A Century of Washington Statistics
- Turning Uncertainty into Opportunity in a Precarious Job Market



Regular Contributed Paper Sessions

- Advances in Small-Area Estimation and Modeling with Survey, Administrative, and Incomplete Data
- Advancing Population Measurement: Integrating Administrative Records, Survey Data, and Multiple-Systems Estimation
- Modern Methods for Addressing Missing Data and Nonresponse in Federal Surveys and Administrative Records
- Modeling and Imputation Strategies for Complex Survey and Administrative Data
- Enhancing Survey Quality Through Response Modeling, Paradata Analytics, and Coverage Frameworks
- Advancing Secure, Ethical, and Transparent Data Systems for Federal Statistical Programs

Roundtable

- Linking the Future: What's Next for Record Linkage and Entity Resolution

Furthermore, we invite you to attend the **GSS, Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS), and Social Statistics Section (SSS) Student Paper Competition Award Winners' presentation on Wednesday, August 5 at 10:30 AM**, where this year's award-winning papers will be showcased. Please join in congratulating our student winners.

Finally, don't forget to attend the **GSS, SRMS, SSS, and Washington Statistical Society Joint Mixer** to learn more about ongoing GSS activities. We look forward to seeing you all at the Joint Mixer.

Program Spotlight

Reimagining Annual Economic Data: The Evolution of the AIES

- **Agency:** U.S. Census Bureau
- **Program:** Annual Integrated Economic Survey (AIES)
- **Submitter:** Edward Watkins, Economy Wide Statistics Division at the U.S. Census Bureau

The [Annual Integrated Economic Survey \(AIES\)](#) represents a fundamental shift in how the U.S. Census Bureau measures the economy. Designed to replace and integrate seven legacy annual surveys into a single, unified program, AIES provides comprehensive data on revenues, expenses, payroll, and employment across nearly all nonfarm employer businesses.

But AIES is more than a consolidation effort. It is a modernization of how economic data are collected, processed, and delivered.

Why This Work Matters Now

The AIES was born out of a clear challenge: traditional survey programs were struggling to keep pace with a changing economy. Declining response rates, constrained resources, and increasing demand for timely, granular data made it clear that a new approach was needed.

At the same time, the role of official statistics has never been more important. Policymakers, businesses, and researchers rely on these data to understand economic performance, guide investment, and inform decisions that affect communities nationwide. The AIES sits at the center of this, bridging the gap between the timeliness of monthly and quarterly surveys and the depth of the Economic Census.

From Integration to Innovation

The initial launch of the AIES focused on continuity, ensuring that users would not lose access to the data they depended on from legacy programs. But quickly, the focus shifted from preservation to improvement.

Ahead of its second collection cycle, reference year 2024, the program undertook a comprehensive review of content, working with stakeholders to identify data that were underutilized, redundant, or difficult to collect. This led to meaningful changes: reducing unnecessary detail, removing items with high suppression rates, and consolidating overlapping concepts.

At the same time, the survey instrument itself was redesigned to better align with how businesses actually report data. For many respondents, particularly single-location firms, the move to a streamlined, form-based experience replaced a more complex spreadsheet-driven approach that had proven confusing and burdensome. These changes were not just about usability; they were about improving data quality by meeting respondents where they are.

Expanding What We Can Measure

Beyond improving existing content, AIES is also expanding into new territory. One of the most notable developments has been the introduction of annual product-level data using the North American Product Classification System (NAPCS). Initially only collected for manufacturing industries, this effort has expanded across sectors, allowing for a more detailed understanding of what businesses produce and sell.

Looking ahead, reference year 2025 continues this momentum. Planned innovations include a new sample design, further reductions in respondent burden through subsampling, and the introduction of new content areas such as quantitative measures of artificial intelligence (AI).

These changes reflect a broader shift: from static, one-size-fits-all data collection to a more flexible, targeted approach that balances data needs with respondent burden.

The Innovations Behind the Work

Several key innovations have enabled this transformation.

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 Officer Candidates

ASA elections are coming up! Ballots should arrive on or around April 6 and voting runs through May 5. Please look for an e-mail from ASA with voting information and vote for GSS candidates for Chair, Program Chair, Publications Officer, and Secretary/Treasurer.

Chair-Elect:

- Pushpal Mukhopadhyay
- Jennifer Park

Program Chair-Elect:

- Saki Kinney
- Elizabeth Petraglia

Publication Officer:

- Isaac Dailsingh
- Robert Tumasian III

Secretary/Treasurer:

- Melissa Nesvold