

— February 23, 2018 —

PEOPLE *News*

We note with sorrow the death of **Lawrence (Larry) Brown**, Miers Busch Professor of Statistics, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, on February 21, 2018, at age 77. A full obituary prepared by his family is attached. What we want to acknowledge here as fully as we can is the debt that CNSTAT, the National Academies, and the nation owe to Larry. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1990, having achieved recognition for his outstanding work in the foundations of statistics and statistical decision theory. He began his National Academies' service with membership on the Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics and Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics. His first CNSTAT project was as a member of the panel, chaired by the late Janet Norwood, that observed the 2000 census, evaluated the results, issued interim and letter reports, and in 2004 released *The 2000 Census: Counting Under Adversity*. The panel focused on the politically charged issue of adjustment of census counts for coverage errors, concluding that the 2000 Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Program provided invaluable information about the quality of the census results but that the Census Bureau's decisions not to adjust the counts were justified. Larry went on to serve as chair or member of the CNSTAT panels that produced *Coverage Measurement in the 2010 Census*, *Envisioning the 2020 Census*, and *Measuring Research and Development Expenditures in the U.S. Economy*. He also served on CNSTAT from 1999–2005, on the advisory committee to CNSTAT's parent unit, the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, and on the National Academies' Report Review Committee. His most recent service was as CNSTAT's 9th chair, ably leading the committee from July 2010–June 2017. We will miss his goodwill toward everyone, his unassuming manner that made light of his towering intellect, his devotion to the highest standards of evidence in the work of the National Academies, and his willingness to devote extraordinary time and energy to volunteer service to the Academies in support of its mission to advise the nation.

We note with sorrow (and with apologies for not noting earlier) the death of **Scott Fricker**, senior research psychologist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and his wife **Buckley** from a horrifying act of violence, on December 22, 2017, in Reston, VA. Scott, who was 48 at the time of his death, was born in Heidelberg, Germany, while his father was serving in the military. He spent his formative years and professional life in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. He earned his B.A. from the University of Richmond, his M.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in survey research methodology. At BLS, he was on the staff of the Office of Survey Methods Research and co-authored many research papers on response burden, effects of question design on accuracy of reporting, and related topics. The DC chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (DC-AAPOR) is holding a special gathering to remember Scott on Monday, February 26, 2018. Please see "*Event and Other News*" below.

RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS (available as free PDFs)

Measuring the 21st Century Science and Engineering Workforce Population: Evolving Needs, the final report of a consensus panel under CNSTAT, co-chaired by Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan) and sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), was released in prepublication format, January 9, 2018. Free PDFs are available [here](#); printed copies will be available shortly.

NCSES, housed in the National Science Foundation, is one of the nation's principal statistical agencies, is charged to collect, acquire, analyze, report, and disseminate statistical data related to the science and engineering enterprise in the United States and other nations that is relevant and useful to practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and the public. NCSES data, based primarily on several flagship surveys, have become the major evidence base for American science and technology policy, and the agency is well respected globally for these data. This report assesses and provides guidance on NCSES's approach to measuring the science and engineering workforce population in the United States. It also proposes a framework for measuring the science and engineering workforce in the next decade and beyond, with flexibility to examine emerging issues related to this unique population while at the same time allowing for stability in the estimation of key trends.

A Smarter National Surveillance System for Occupational Safety and Health in the 21st Century, the final report of a consensus panel under the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Committee on National Statistics, and Board on Health Sciences Policy, chaired by Edward Shortliffe (Arizona State University), was released in prepublication format, January 9, 2018. The report was sponsored by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Occupational Health and Safety Administration. Free PDFs are available [here](#), and printed copies will be available shortly.

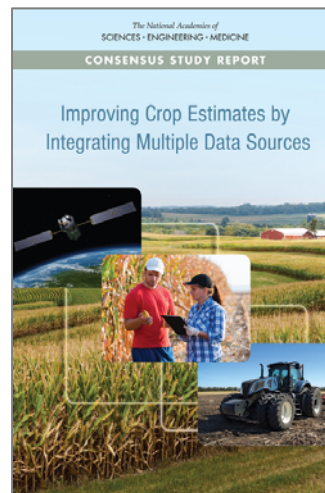
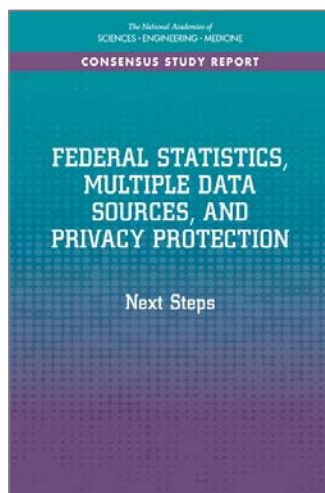
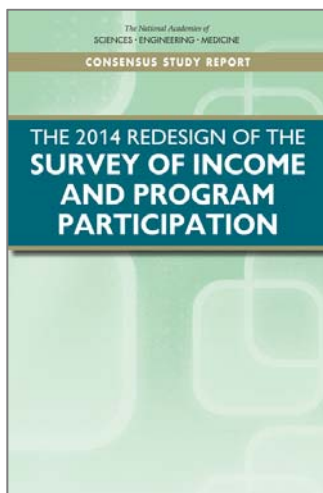
The workplace is where 156 million adults in the United States spend many waking hours, and it has a profound influence on health and well-being. Although some occupations and work-related activities are more hazardous than others and face higher rates of injuries, illness, disease, and fatalities, workers in all occupations face some form of work-related safety and health concerns. Occupational safety and health (OSH) surveillance provides the data and analyses needed to understand the relationships between work and injuries and illnesses in order to improve worker safety and health and prevent work-related injuries and illnesses. Information about the circumstances in which workers are injured or made ill on the job and how these patterns change over time is essential to develop effective prevention programs and target future research. This report provides a comprehensive assessment of the state of OSH surveillance. It is intended to be useful to federal and state agencies that have an interest in occupational safety and health, but may also be of interest broadly to employers, labor unions and other worker advocacy organizations, the workers' compensation insurance industry, as well as state epidemiologists, academic researchers, and the broader public health community. The recommendations address both short- and long-term actions and strategies needed to bring about a progressive evolution of the current system.

RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE IN PRINTED FORM

[*The 2014 Redesign of the Survey of Income and Program Participation: An Assessment*](#), released August 28, 2017

[*Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps*](#), released October 2, 2017

[*Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources*](#), released October 11, 2017



Reminder: PDF versions of CNSTAT and National Academies reports are available for free download at *The National Academies Press* website, <http://www.nap.edu>. The download site asks for your e-mail and a password. If you don't have an NAP account and don't want to have one, then provide your e-mail and click "I don't have an account;" on the next page click "accept NAP policies" and "log in as guest".

Reminder: Slides from previous CNSTAT public seminars are available on the CNSTAT [public seminars and symposia](#) page. Presentations from the October 2017 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "New Directions for Federal Statistics," are available [here](#).

Slides from several major workshops are available on the [presentations](#) page on the CNSTAT website. This page also includes a section on "[Multiple Data Sources Presentations](#)," which links to presentations from workshops and meetings for CNSTAT's [Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods](#).

EVENT & OTHER *News*

DC-AAPOR would like to invite you to join in remembering **Scott Fricker**. From the invitation: This special gathering will be held **February 26, 2018**, from 5:00-7:00pm at Gallup (901 F Street NW, Washington, DC). Scott was a well-respected friend and colleague whose kindness and warmth touched us all. We would like to take this opportunity for those who knew him to get together and share their fond memories and reflect on how he touched everyone's lives. Scott was an active member of our community, so please join us to share drinks with friends as we remember the positive and supportive person he was. To register for this event please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/special-gathering-to-remember-scott-fricker-tickets-42675577802>. Several people have asked for a way to support Scott's family during this tragic time. In collaboration with Scott's colleagues and friends at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the University of Maryland, a GoFundMe account has been created to support the educational needs of Scott's children: <http://www.gofundme.com/fricker-educational-fund>. The Office of Survey Methods Research (OSMR) at BLS is also collecting inputs for a memory book that will be given to Scott's family. If you would like to add to it (your thoughts, stories, pictures, etc.), you can email your contribution to Edgar.Jennifer@bls.gov. For questions, please contact Heather Ridolfo, heather.ridolfo@nass.usda.gov, or Doug Williams, douglaswilliams@westat.com.

It is not too late to [register](#) for the **2018 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Research and Policy Conference**, taking place on **March 7-9, 2018**, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. The registration rate is \$215. The preliminary program is available [here](#). Organized by the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) working with and on behalf of FCSM, this conference is a must for the federal statistical community.

We call your attention to the **Request for Information (RFI)**, issued by the **U.S. Office of Management and Budget** in the January 12, 2018, *Federal Register*. Responses to the RFI are due **March 12, 2018**. See <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/01/12/2018-00400/request-for-information>. In summary:

The Chief Statistician of the United States and the Statistical and Science Policy Branch (SSP) in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) seek to establish priorities and coordinate research efforts across the Federal Statistical System to focus on improving federal statistics. In particular, a priority has been placed on using new techniques and methodologies based on combining data from multiple sources. To support this effort, information is requested on: (1) Current and emerging techniques for linking and analyzing combined data; (2) on-going research on methods to describe the quality of statistical products that result from these techniques; (3) computational frameworks and systems for conducting such work; (4) privacy or confidentiality issues that may arise from combining such data; and (5) suggestions for additional research in those or related areas.

The **American Statistical Association (ASA)** invites nominations for the first **Links Lecture Award**, announced on January 17, 2018. The award is intended to contribute to advancement of work in official statistics through the statistical use of administrative records and alternative data sources, record linkage, statistical methods for creating blended estimates, and issues associated with these activities such as privacy, confidentiality, researcher access, and reproducibility of results. Nominations are due **May 1, 2018**—see the information at the end of this newsletter.

CNSTAT Meetings

CNSTAT holds three regular meetings each year, with its spring and fall meeting dates following a set formula; our May meetings are always the Thursday–Friday preceding Mother’s Day and our October meetings are always the second-to-last Thursday–Friday of the month. Here are the next three meetings:

CNSTAT’s 136th meeting will be held **May 10-11, 2018**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **11th**, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, ICSP), followed by a **“Big Data Day”** featuring posters and demos, beginning with a plenary panel at 1:30 pm and ending with a reception at 5:00 pm. Stayed tuned for more information. We hope to see you there.

CNSTAT’s 137th meeting will be held **October 18-19, 2018**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **19th**, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the ICSP), followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 1:30 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm.

CNSTAT’s 138th meeting will be held **February 7-8, 2019**, at the **National Academies’ Keck Center**, 500 5th St NW, Washington, DC. It will be in retreat format; it will not have a public seminar or agency head lunch.

Active PANELS & WORKSHOPS

[Listed by sponsor agency, beginning with federal departments. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are in Washington, DC, and include open sessions. For further information, contact the person listed as the study director or project assistant (e-mail addresses follow the formula of first initial plus last name as in oneword@nas.edu). Also see the CNSTAT [web site](#) under “Our Work.”]

Department of Agriculture

Improving Consumer Data for Food and Nutrition Policy Research for the Economic Research Service, USDA

Sponsor: Economic Research Service

Duration: October 2017–December 2019

Study director: Christopher Mackie; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair-designate: Marianne Bitler (UC-Davis)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Panel on Improving Data Collection and Reporting about Agriculture with Increasingly Complex Farm Business Structures

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Research Service

Duration: September 2015–September 2018

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Sixth meeting (closed) scheduled for March 26-27, 2018, at NORC in Chicago, IL

Workshop on Model-Based Methods for Producing Estimates of Livestock with Appropriate Measures of Uncertainty

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2015– September 2019

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Department of Commerce

Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau’s Annual Economic Surveys

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: May 2015–May 2018

Study director: Glenn White; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)

Publication planned: Final report is in response to review

Meetings: Sixth and final in-person meeting held June 8-9, 2017, in Washington, DC

Workshop on the Census Bureau's 2018 End-to-End Test and Concept of Operations for Reengineering the 2020 Census [postponed]

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: October 2017 – September 2018

Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Michael Cohen; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair-designate: Joseph Salvo (NYC Department of City Planning)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meeting: Workshop TBD

Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Michael Cohen; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau's annual economic surveys (see above) and may spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning (see below). A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Department of Education

Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity (see listing under “The Atlantic Philanthropies et al.” below)

Department of Health and Human Services

Committee on Building an Agenda to Reduce the Number of Children in Poverty by Half in 10 Years (joint with the Board on Children, Youth, and Families, which has the lead)

Sponsors: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Foundation for Child Development

Duration: October 2016–April 2019

Study director: Suzanne Le Menestrel (BCYF); senior program officer: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Rebekah Hutton (BCYF); project assistant: Pamella Atayi (BCYF)

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Seventh in-person meeting scheduled for May 14-15, 2018, in Washington, DC

Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsors: National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities (NIMHD), and Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) of the National Institutes of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Graham Colditz (Washington University, St. Louis)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings is being drafted

Meetings: Workshop held January 18-19, 2018, in Washington, DC. The agenda is available [here](#).

Department of Justice

Panel on Modernizing the Nation's Crime Statistics (joint with the Committee on Law and Justice)

Sponsor: Bureau of Justice Statistics and Federal Bureau of Investigation

Duration: September 2013–March 2018

Study director: Daniel Cork; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri–St. Louis)

Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016—printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 2: New Systems for Measuring Crime*, has cleared review and is being prepared for public release

Meetings: Final in-person meeting held January 13-14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

Department of Transportation

Standing Committee for Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement (joint with the Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: October 2017–September 2020

Study director: Michael Cohen; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Tom Menzies; project assistant: Michael Siri

Co-chairs: Joel Greenhouse (Carnegie Mellon) and Sharon Lise-Normand (Harvard Medical School)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels.

Upcoming meetings: The standing committee is initially meeting by teleconference.

National Science Foundation

Committee on Reproducibility and Replicability in Science (led by the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences, with the Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics, CNSTAT, and the Division of Earth and Life Sciences)

Sponsor: NSF director's office (congressionally mandated)

Duration: August 2017 – March 2019

Study director: Jennifer Heimberg (DELS); board director: Michelle Schwalbe (BMSA); senior program officer: Adrienne Stith Butler (BBCSS); senior program officer: Michael Cohen (CNSTAT)

Chair: Harvey Fineberg (Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting scheduled for April 18-19, 2018, in Washington, DC

Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication: Final report, *Measuring the 21st Century Science and Engineering Workforce Population: Evolving Needs*, released in prepublication format, January 9, 2018. Free PDFs are available [here](#); printed copies will be available shortly.

Meetings: Sixth and final meeting held July 6-7, 2017, in Washington, DC

Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2018

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Hermann Habermann; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings report is being drafted

Meeting: Workshop held June 21-22, 2017, in Washington, DC

The American Educational Research Association, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the W.T. Grant Foundation

Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity

Sponsors: See above list

Duration: December 2016–December 2018

Study director: Judith Koenig; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Kelly Arrington

Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (The Opportunity Institute, Berkeley, CA); Lorraine McDonnell (UC Santa Barbara)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fourth in-person meeting TBD

• CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •

Committee on National Statistics
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences
and Education
The National Academies of Sciences,
Engineering, and Medicine
500 Fifth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001
<http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat>

Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin, *Director*
bkojetin@nas.edu
(202) 334-2077 or 3096
Eileen LeFurgy, *Program Coordinator*
elefurgy@nas.edu
(202) 334-1616 or 3096
Dr. Constance F. Citro
Senior Scholar and Newsletter Editor
ccitro@nas.edu (202) 334-3009

– See our website for previous issues of *News from CNSTAT*, under “CNSTAT News” –

The Committee on National Statistics was established in 1972 at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to improve the statistical methods and information on which public policy decisions are based. The committee carries out studies, workshops, and other activities to foster better measures and fuller understanding of the economy, the environment, public health, crime, education, immigration, poverty, welfare, and other public policy issues. It also evaluates ongoing statistical programs and tracks the statistical policy and coordinating activities of the federal government, serving a unique role at the intersection of statistics and public policy. The committee’s work is supported by a consortium of federal agencies through a National Science Foundation grant, a National Agricultural Statistics Service cooperative agreement, and several individual agreements.

Lawrence David Brown

Lawrence D. Brown died peacefully at 6:30 a.m. on Feb. 21, 2018, at the age of 77. Larry preserved his unfailing fortitude and good humor to his last day.

Larry was born on Dec. 16, 1940, in Los Angeles, California. His parents moved to Alexandria, VA, during World War II, then returned to California. His father, Louis Brown, was a successful tax lawyer and later a professor of law at the University of Southern California, where he worked tirelessly on behalf of client services and conflict prevention, for which he coined the phrase preventive law. His mother, Hermione Kopp Brown, studied law in Virginia and then in Los Angeles and became one of the leading women lawyers in Los Angeles in the field of entertainment law, with emphasis on estate planning. Larry inherited their dedication for service, their mental acuity and resourcefulness, and their selfless good spirits.

Larry graduated from Beverly Hills High School in 1957 and from the California Institute of Technology in 1961 and earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from Cornell University three years later. Initially hired at the University of California, Berkeley, he then taught in the mathematics department at Cornell University from 1966-72 and 1978-94 and in the statistics department at Rutgers University from 1972-78; he moved to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1994 and taught his last course there as the Miers Busch Professor of Statistics in the fall of 2017. One of the leading statisticians of his generation, he was the recipient of many honors, including devoted service as a member of the National Academy of Sciences, election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the presidency of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and an honorary doctorate from Purdue University. He was much loved by his colleagues and his students, many of whom hold leading positions in the United States and abroad.

His passion for his work was matched by his devotion to his family. His wife Linda Zhao survives him, as do their sons Frank and Louie, their daughter Yiwen Zhao, his daughters from his first marriage, Yona Alpers and Sarah Ackman, his brothers Marshall and Harold and their wives Jane and Eileen, and 19 grandchildren.

Funeral Service

1:00 p.m. on Friday, 2/23/2018, at Chapel of Peace at West Laurel Hill Cemetery
321 Belmont Ave
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19131

Immediately followed by
Internment at Laurel Hill Cemetery
3822 Ridge Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19132

Followed by Reception at home
709 Sturbridge Dr.
Bryn Mawr PA, 19010

A public memorial service will be held later at the University of Pennsylvania and there will be an opportunity to contribute in his name to a fund on behalf of graduate students.

ASA Links Lecture Award

First award to be given in 2018.

About the Award

The Links Lecture Award was created to honor the contributions of Constance Citro, Robert Groves, and Fritz Scheuren and to contribute to advancement of work in official statistics through the statistical use of administrative records and alternative data sources, record linkage, statistical methods for creating blended estimates, and issues associated with these activities such as privacy, confidentiality, researcher access, and reproducibility of results. Each year, a lecturer will be chosen from among a set of nominated candidates to receive the award and to present a lecture. The award includes a modest honorarium and travel expenses to present the Links Lecture in the Washington, DC, area.

Selection Criteria

The award will be given to the nominee whose work, in the judgment of the award committee, has most contributed to the advancement of official statistics through the following:

- Statistical use of administrative records and alternative data sources
- Record linkage
- Statistical methods for creating blended estimates
- Issues associated with the activities listed here such as privacy, confidentiality, researcher access, and reproducibility of results

Nominations

Nominations are due by May 1. Nominators should submit—at minimum—a CV and two letters of support. The nomination should clearly document the ways in which the nominee meets the criteria for the award, emphasizing the impact of the nominee's work on official statistics. Email nominations to awards@amstat.org.

Award Recipient Responsibilities

The award recipient will present a lecture in the Washington, DC, area about their work at a mutually agreed-upon time. The award recipient is responsible for providing a current photograph and general personal information the year the award is presented. The American Statistical Association uses this information to publicize the award and prepare the prize.

Questions

Please contact the committee [chair](#), Arthur Kennickell.