



**COPAFS**

*Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics*

**COPAFS Update**  
*March 13, 2026*

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Paul Schroeder  
Executive Director

# COPAFS Update

- **Friends of BLS FY2027 Recommendation Letter**
- **Census 2026 Practice Test**
- **Schedule Policy/Career**
- **New U.S. Chief Statistician: Stuart Levenbach**
- **Corn Acreage Revisions**



## 2026 FCSM Conference

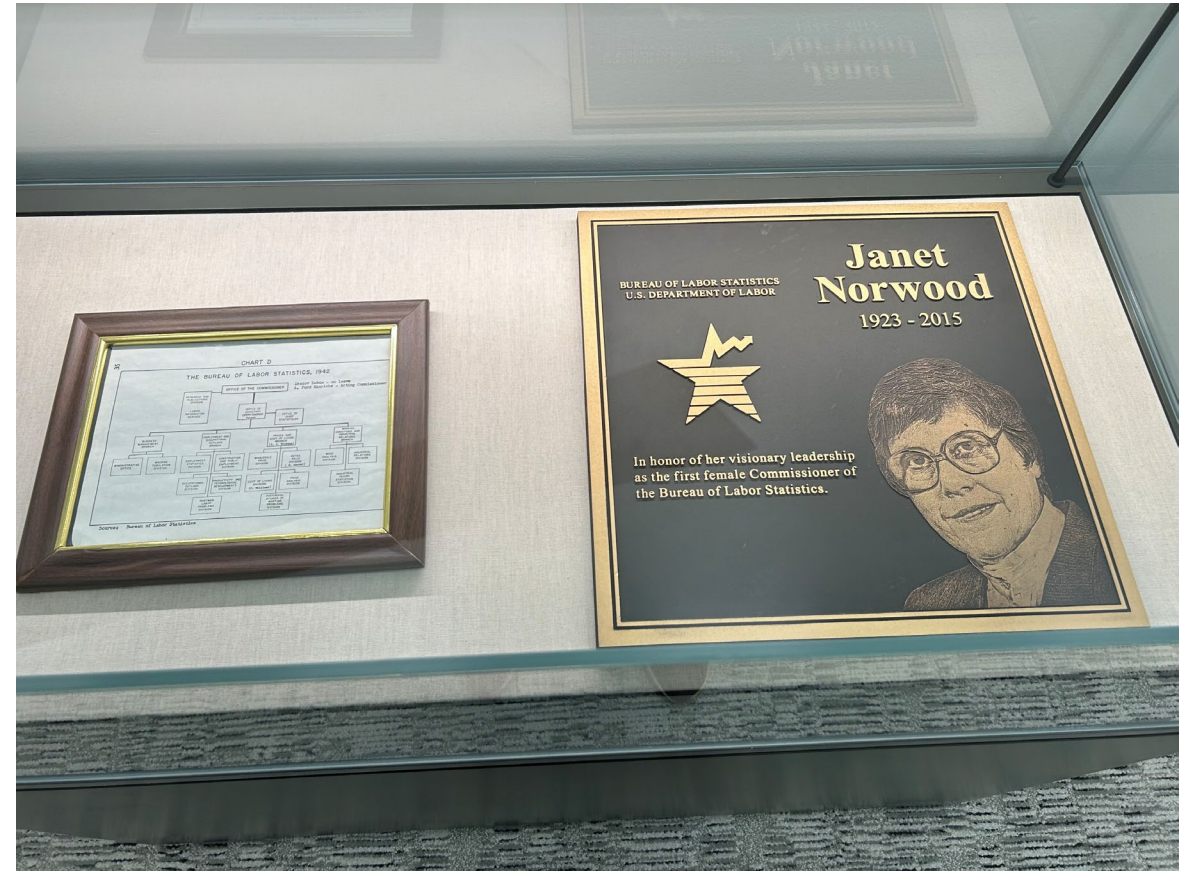
- **March 11 & 12, 2026**
- **Took place at the Suitland Federal Center**
  - **Utilized Census and BLS Conference Centers**
- **63 sessions and 244 presentations**
- **Almost 1,000 registrants**



# 2026 FCSM Conference

	<i>Census Auditorium 1</i>	<i>Census Auditorium 2</i>	<i>Census Auditorium 3</i>	<i>Census Conference 1-2</i>	<i>Census Conference 3-4</i>	<i>BLS Auditorium A</i>	<i>BLS CTC 2A</i>	<i>BLS Auditorium C</i>
<b>7:30-8:30</b>	<b>Check-in</b>							
<b>8:30-10:00</b>	<u>Session A-1</u> Improving Access to Data Through Strategic Collaborations and Innovation	<u>Session A-2</u> Using AI to Improve Operations and Products	<u>Session A-3</u> Innovations in Linking Health Records Across Federal Agencies	<u>Session A-4</u> Testing New Survey Instruments, Modes, and Methods for Sensitive Topics in BJS Surveys	<u>Session A-5</u> Building Better Questions: Insights from Cognitive Interviews, Paradata, and Experiments	<u>Session A-6</u> Innovations in Regional Economic Measurement: Capital, Consumption, and Productivity	<u>Session A-7</u> What is the Value? Coping with Outliers and Missingness	<u>Session A-8</u> From Costs to Care: Economic and Population Perspectives on Health
<b>10:00-10:15</b>	<b>Break</b>							
<b>10:15-11:45</b>	<u>Session B-1</u> Statistical Communication: Improving Value, Engagement, and Public Trust	<u>Session B-2</u> From Freight to Tax Filings: AI Classification and Applications for Federal Data Collections	<u>Session B-3</u> Data Linkage: Increasing Quality and Information	<u>Session B-4</u> Mode Matters: How Design Choices Shape Survey Results		<u>Session B-6</u> Show Me the Monetary: New Metrics for Measuring Value	<u>Session B-7</u> SAE at Census: Bridging Data Gaps with Flagship Models and New Innovations	<u>Session B-8</u> Methodological Advancements in Health Measurement
<b>11:45-1:15</b>	<b>Lunch on your own</b>							
<b>1:15-2:45</b>	<u>Session C-1</u> NSDS Use Cases: Advancing Federal Mission-Critical Priorities Through Shared Services	<u>Session C-2</u> Making Federal Data AI-Ready	<u>Session C-3</u> Next Steps in Record Linkage: Adding Value to Existing Data and Hard-To-Measure Concepts	<u>Session C-4</u> Modernizing the Survey of Income and Program Participation	<u>Session C-5</u> Evaluating the Unseen: Tackling Bias and Error in Federal Statistics	<u>Session C-6</u> State-Level Statistics at BEA: New Approaches to Trade, Government, and Gross Output Measurement	<u>Session C-7</u> Innovative Solutions for Small Area Problems: From Machine Learning to Novel Modeling	<u>Session C-8</u> Connecting the Dots: Linking Data for Smarter Social and Economic Measures
<b>2:45-3:00</b>	<b>Break</b>							
<b>3:00-4:30</b>	<u>Session D-1</u> Open for Collaboration and Innovation: Partnerships Across the Federal Statistical System	<u>Session D-2</u> Keeping Secrets while Telling the Truth: Synthetic Data, Methods, and Applications	<u>Session D-3</u> Assembling the Mosaic: Linking Data for Coverage, Poverty, and Consent	<u>Session D-4</u> Building the Future of Juvenile Facility Data: Modernizing the Census Program	<u>Session D-5</u> Defining, Measuring, and Monitoring Data Quality	<u>Session D-6</u> Where in the World? Defining and Applying Measures of Geography	<u>Session D-7</u> Precision at Scale: Modern Approaches to Small Area Estimation	

# BLS Gallery



# BLS Gallery



# BLS Gallery



# Connect with COPAFS



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Email me directly at [paul.schroeder@copafs.org](mailto:paul.schroeder@copafs.org)

# Save the Date!

The Next COPAFS Quarterly Meeting is on . . .


**Friday, June 12, 2026**

Subsequent 2026 Quarterly Meetings will be held on:

- Friday, September 11
- Friday, December 11

June 2026

Calendarpedia  
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11		13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

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19: Juneteenth

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# Agenda

Time	Topic
9:30 – 9:40	<i>Welcome/Report from Board of Directors</i> <b>Andy Weiss, Chair</b>
9:40 – 10:00	<i>COPAFS and Federal Statistical System Update</i> <b>Paul Schroeder</b>
10:00 – 11:00	<i>A Year of Challenges: Early Observations from the EMERGE Study of Public Data Users</i> <b>Chris Jackson, SSRS</b>
11:00 – 12:00	<i>Hierarchical Bayesian Spatio-temporal Models for Mass Imputation of the CPI in Small Areas from Sparse Survey Data</i> <b>Vladislav Beresovsky, BLS</b>
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch Break
1:00 – 2:30	<i>Assessing and Monitoring the Health of Federal Statistics: The Nation's Data at Risk, 2025 Report</i> <b>Steve Pierson, ASA</b> <b>Connie Citro, NASEM</b> <b>Nancy Potok, NAPx Consulting</b> <b>Claire Bowen, Urban Institute</b> <b>Zach Seeskin, NORC</b> <b>Michelle Crosby, ASA</b>
2:30 – 3:00	<i>Business Meeting</i>
3:00	<i>Adjourn</i>