

## **Rebecca Blank, Commerce Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Will Keynote 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings in Washington DC**

### ***Statisticians to Discuss 2010 Census... Duplications, Undercounting and Using the Data***

**ALEXANDRIA VA (PRWEB) JULY 14, 2009** – The new Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce, will speak at the 2009 annual Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), the American Statistical Association (ASA) said today. Rebecca M. Blank, who was sworn in June 9, will give the President's Invited Address on Monday, August 3, at 4 pm. JSM, the world's largest annual gathering of statisticians, will be at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington DC August 1-6.

As the Economic Advisor to the Secretary of Commerce, and head of the Economic and Statistics Administration (ESA), Dr. Blank has responsibility for management of two of the top statistical agencies in the United States, the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Blank is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Lifetime Associate at the National Academies of Science. Blank previously served as a Member of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers.

Blank will speak on "Measurement Matters: Why Good Statistics are Important to Understanding the Well-Being of American Families." On Monday at 2 pm, Blank will chair a JSM session, Measuring Poverty: New Research Findings, which will include presenters from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

#### **2010 Census Hot Topic at JSM**

As the 2010 Census draws nearer, statisticians at the JSM will discuss Census methodologies, data quality and the challenges inherent in counting everyone in the country only once. More than 100 presenters from the U.S. Census Bureau will participate in the conference. Complete program and registration information for the 2009 JSM is available at the JSM web site at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/>.

***[Note to editors: Media are welcome to attend all JSM sessions at no cost; for complete registration information, please visit the JSM web site at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/index.cfm?fuseaction=pressregistration>]***

#### **About JSM**

JSM is held jointly with the American Statistical Association (ASA), the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), and the Statistical Society of Canada. More than 5,000 statisticians from government, industry and academia are expected to attend the 2009 JSM, which features a range of activities, including more than 2,500 presentations, panels, roundtables, poster presentations, and continuing education courses. There also is an exhibit hall (with state-of-the-art statistical products and opportunities); a career placement service; society, section and committee meetings; and social and networking opportunities.

#### **About the American Statistical Association**

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. For 170 years, ASA has been providing its 18,000 members serving in academia, government, and industry and the public with up-to-date, useful information about statistics.

The ASA has a proud tradition of service to statisticians, quantitative scientists, and users of statistics across a wealth of academic areas and applications. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the association's web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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