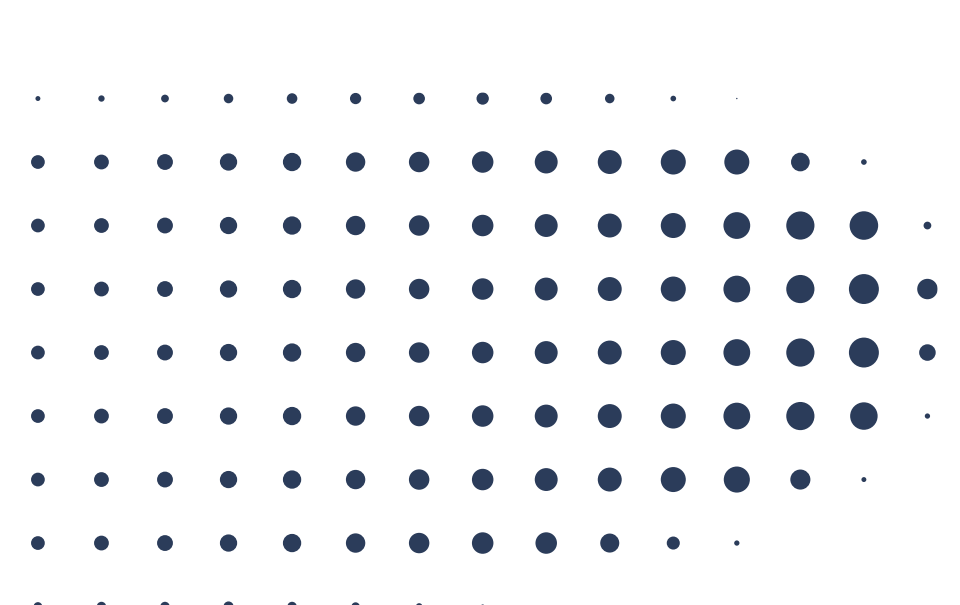


Katherine Wallman: Her Influence on ASA Science Policy

Steve Pierson, ASA Director of Science Policy





2008-2017

Bombay Club

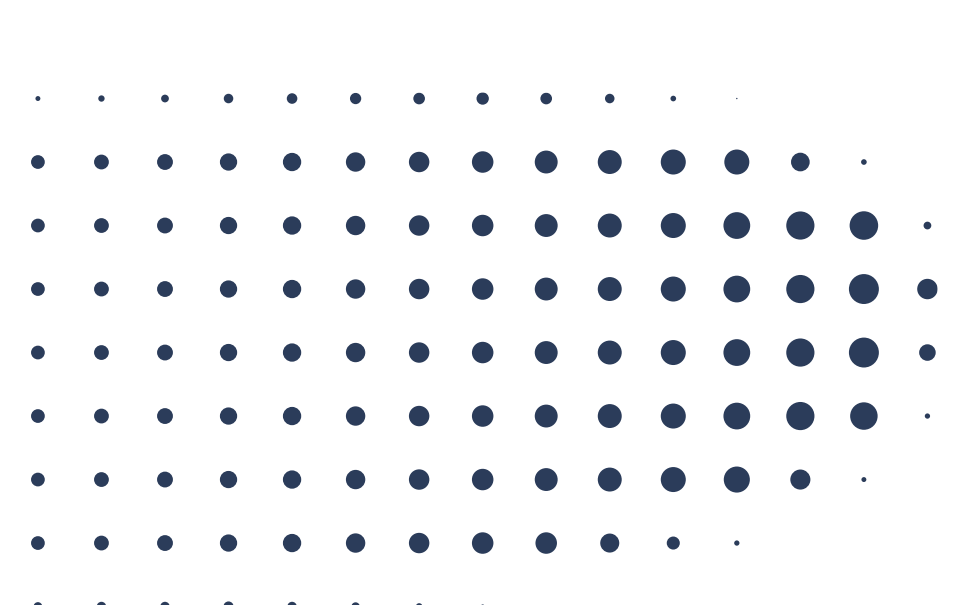
COPAFS

CNSTAT

JSM

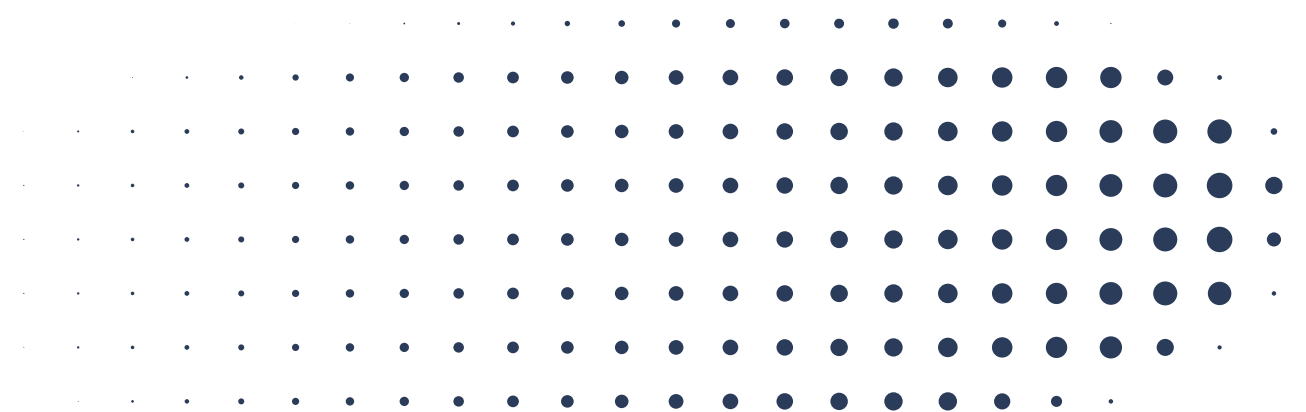
ICSP Facilitation





2017-2024

“Wallman Unleashed”





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Leaders Across Five Decades Unite to Oppose USDA Plans

56 former officials caution Congress changes will harm agriculture, rural economy

Manifesting alarm over the USDA's plan to reorganize and relocate two statistical and research agencies, 56 former USDA and federal statistical agency officials, including former deputy and undersecretaries, have [written to Congress](#) to warn of the likely damage to US agriculture and farming and to urge the proposed plans be abandoned.

Des Moines Register

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Legals



USDA's plans threaten the integrity and viability of data that farmers need

Katherine Wallman Guest columnist

Updated July 3, 2019, 4:45 p.m. CT



Political interference threatens the census. Here's how to protect it.

September 8, 2020

More than **4 years ago**

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

By Katherine K. Wallman and Nancy A. Potok



Political interference threatens the census. Here's how to protect it

September 8, 2019

By Katherine I.

Transparency and objectivity are essential if census results are to be trusted and used. Four former Census Bureau directors requested last month that Congress charge an independent institution with establishing metrics to assess the quality of the 2020 Census and recommend a course of action if the data gathered do not meet federal standards. Outside expertise has been enlisted before, and the National Academy of Sciences and the American Statistical Association have deep experience studying the census that would suit them to this task.



2020 Census Quality Indicators: A Report from the American Statistical Association

Prepared by the 2020 Census Quality Indicators Task Force



Statistics and Public Policy >

Volume 11, 2024 - [Issue 1](#)

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Enter keywords, authors, DOI, etc

2,102

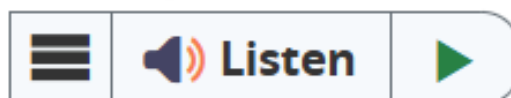
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citations to date



25

Altmetric




Articles

Bolstering Education Statistics to Serve the Nation

Emerson Elliott, Jonathan Auerbach , Constance F. Citro, Daniel Elchert, **Steve Pierson** , Marilyn Seastrom, Thomas Snyder, Katherine Wallman & James L. Woodworth [...show less](#)

Article: 2285788 | Received 10 May 2023, Accepted 16 Nov 2023, Published online: 26 Jan 2024

 Cite this article

 <https://doi.org/10.1080/2330443X.2023.2285788>



3,562

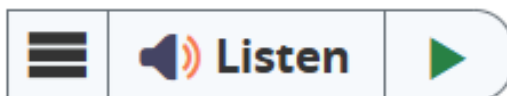
Views

4

CrossRef
citations to date




5

Altmetric




Discussion

What Protects the Autonomy of the Federal Statistical Agencies? An Assessment of the Procedures in Place to Protect the Independence and Objectivity of Official U.S. Statistics

Constance F. Citro, Jonathan Auerbach , Katherine Smith Evans, Erica L. Groshen, J. Steven Landefeld, Jeri Mulrow, Thomas Petska, **Steve Pierson** , Nancy Potok, Charles J. Rothwell, John Thompson, James L. Woodworth & Edward Wu  ...show less

Article: 2188062 | Received 31 May 2022, Accepted 02 Mar 2023, Published online: 10 Mar 2023

 Cite this article

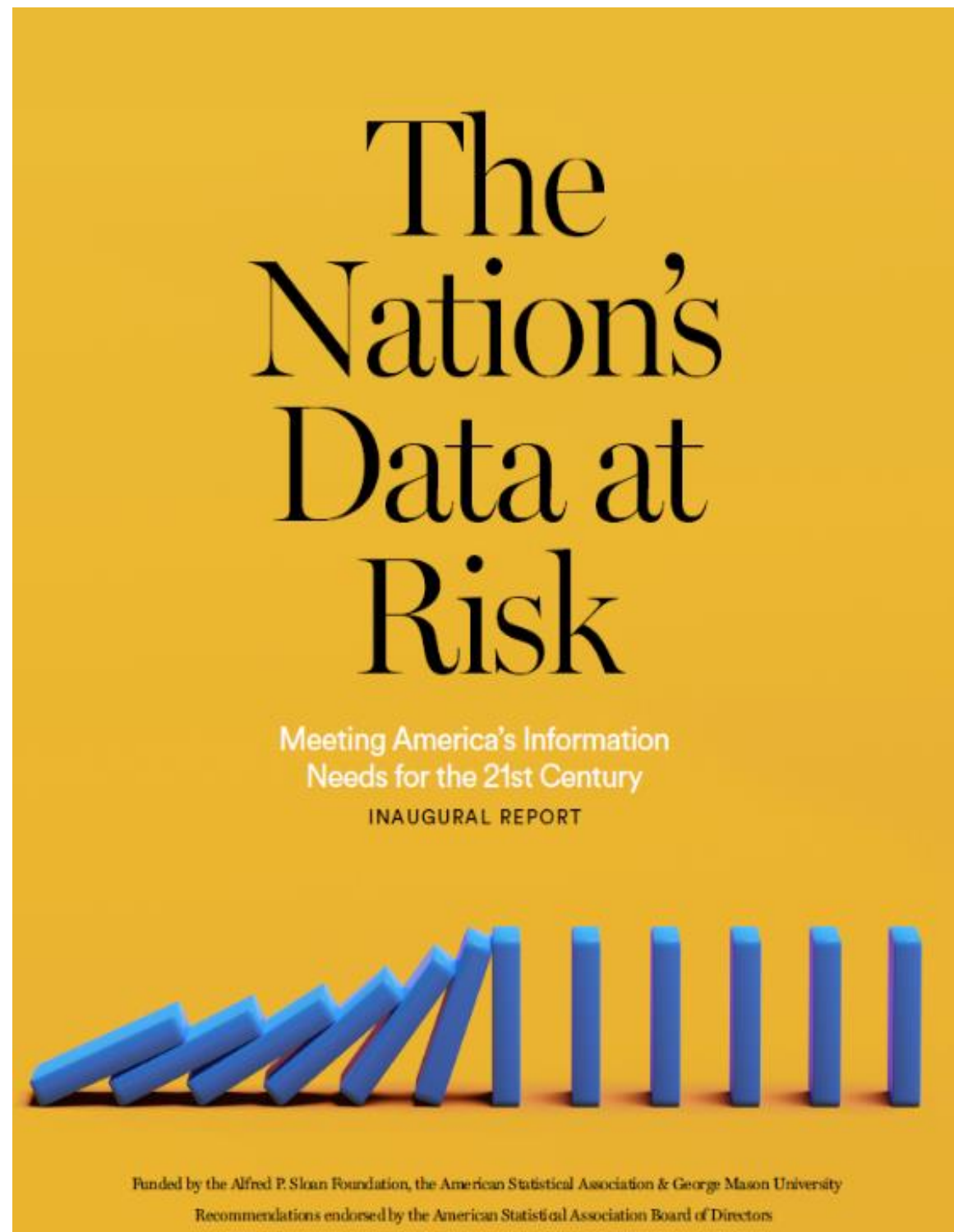
 <https://doi.org/10.1080/2330443X.2023.2188062>





Response to the Notice of proposed rulemaking: Fundamental
Responsibilities of Recognized Statistical Agencies and Units

October 2, 2023



Assessed:

- Capacity of 13 principal statistical agencies and chief statistician's office to serve the nation's data needs
- Support required for statistical agencies to meet their missions in the 21st century.
- Threats, challenges, and opportunities for the statistical agencies

Goal: Annual report with active dissemination to increase visibility and motivate stakeholders to ACT (inaugural report important baseline)





Katherine Wallman

Grace
Wisdom
Kindness
Diplomacy
Patient
Forthright
Leader

Tact
Constructive
Generous
Committed
Understanding
Mentor
Legend ...





In Memory of Katherine Wallman

2025 Joint Statistical Meetings
Tuesday, August 19, 2025

A Timeline of the Life of Katherine Wallman and her Support for Education

James J. Cochran

Professor of Statistics

Mike and Kathy Mours Research Chair

Department of Information Systems,
Statistics, & Management Science

The University of Alabama

jjcochran@ua.edu

2025 Joint Statistical Meetings

Nashville TN USA

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

A FEW WORDS ON KATHERINE'S SUPPORT OF EDUCATION

Katherine was committed to enhancing statistical literacy – particularly with regard to the general public and children

Katherine was extremely supportive of federally employed statisticians' ongoing education efforts

Katherine frequently spoke to students and faculty members about the federal statistics system and statistics careers

Several
things
you
might not
know



about
Katherine
Wallman

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Katherine K. Wallman (June 17, 1943 – January 17, 2024) was an American statistician

Katherine was a pioneer in official statistics

Katherine was a strong supporter of education reform in statistics

Katherine was a strong advocate for recognition and advancement of women and minorities

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Katherine Wallman grew up in New Jersey

Her mother was an elementary school teacher

Her father was a telephone company executive

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Katherine earned a BA in sociology from the Wellesley College in 1965

Katherine also considered majoring in mathematics and French

Katherine began her professional career working for New England Telephone as a programmer/systems analyst (using COBOL and assembly language)

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Katherine moved to Washington DC in 1967, took the civil service exam, and joined the National Center for Education Statistics

Katherine worked tirelessly to strengthen ties between NCES and state education agencies

Katherine moved to the Office of Management and Budget as deputy chief statistician in 1978

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Katherine became first executive director of the newly formed Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) in 1981

Katherine was named Chief Statistician of the United States in 1982

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Highlights of her service in this role include:

- revision of Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 on race and ethnicity classification in 1997 to improve the clarity, accuracy, collection, and reporting of race and ethnicity data in federal statistics

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Highlights of her service in this role include:

- enactment of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2002 that established uniform confidentiality protections for information collected U.S. statistical agencies and allows some data sharing between the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Census Bureau

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Highlights of her service in this role include:

- Co-chairing an Interagency Technical Working Group that led to publication of the Supplemental Poverty Measure in 2011 alongside the official poverty measure to provide a more comprehensive measure of poverty by considering non-cash benefits and necessary expenses (taxes, childcare costs) not included in the official measure

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Highlights of her service in this role include:

- the issuance of Statistical Policy Directive No. 1 on Fundamental Responsibilities of Federal Statistical Agencies and Recognized Statistical Units (2014) outlining statistical agency responsibilities and stressing the need for independence from political influence in development, production, and dissemination of statistics

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Highlights of her service in this role include:

- chaired the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2004–05 and Conference of European Statisticians
- chaired the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2003–2007)
- vice chaired the OECD Statistics Committee (2009–2011)

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Katherine was a longtime a leader in the American Statistical Association:

- Member of the ASA Scientific and Public Affairs Advisory Committee
- Worked with ASA Office of Science Policy on projects supporting federal statistics.
- President in of the American Statistical Association in 1992

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Awards Katherine received include:

- Presidential Rank Meritorious Executive Award (twice!)
- Office of Management and Budget Robert G. Damus Award for significant, sustained contributions to the integrity and excellence of OMB (2009)

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Awards Katherine received include:

- Population Association of America
Excellence in Public Service Award (2011)
- Elected member of the International
Statistical Institute

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Awards Katherine received include:

- Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics from the Washington Statistical Society and National Association of Business Economists (2017)

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Awards Katherine received include:

- ASA Founders Award (2007)
- Elected fellow of the ASA (1993)
- Elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Katherine was a favorite of C-SPAN (she made several appearances)

Katherine retired (*kind of, sort of, maybe*) in 2017

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

After retirement, Katherine continued to be a champion of the federal statistical system by serving on the

- Council of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan
- Board of the Association of Public Data Users

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

After retirement, Katherine continued to be a champion of the federal statistical system by serving on the

- Population Association of America
Committee on Population Statistics
- ASA Task Force on 2020 Census Quality
Indicators

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Katherine was intelligent

Katherine was quick

Katherine was witty

Katherine was industrious

Katherine was a visionary

Katherine was a transparent, objective, empathetic, and inspiring leader

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Katherine relished challenges and loved attacking and solving difficult problems

Katherine was creative

Katherine was extremely upbeat and optimistic while being realistic

Katherine was kind, thoughtful, and supportive

Kathy was my friend

Who else
would like
to share
their
memories



of
Katherine
Wallman?

Wah wah wah! Agante Sana! A honani ha ha! dzẽ'hujẽ!
 Kamsakamnida! Teşekkür ederim! Ma l'abte o!
 Dhanyavaad! Gracias! Спасибо!
 Mossi! Благодаря ти Sag boluñ!
 d'akujem! Mulţumesc! Arigato! Mèsi!
 谢谢 Ngiyabonga! Jlakasugotia!
 𑌕𑍇𑍃𑍇𑍂! Vinaça! Dzieki! Obrigado!
 dëkujii! Thank You! धन्यवाद
 Köszönöm Szépen! Ke a leboha! Köszönöm! Maururi!
 𑌕𑍇𑍃𑍇𑍂 Szépen! Ewe! Дякую! 𑌕𑍇𑍃𑍇𑍂
 𑌕𑍇𑍃𑍇𑍂 Hvala vam! Spasibo! Sanco!
 Ευχαριστώ a danq auh! Ta humbiiri!
 THANKS! Kiitos! Salamat! ありがとう
 Дякую! شڪرا لك Tänan! Abumgang!
 Enkosi! Hvala lijera! Spasibo! E se é! Kiwi Linggo!
 Grazie! agradeço! Terima kasih! Благодарам
 Danke! cảm ơn bạn! Takki fyrir!



(1943 - 2024)

Remembering Katherine Wallman: *"The Lady Statistician"*

Presented By:
Jen Park



Reflections

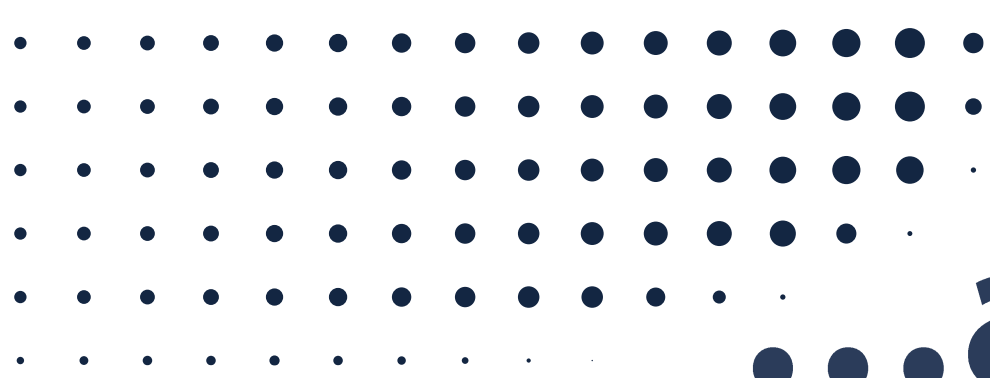
- In addition to her many contributions to US domestic statistical policy, Katherine made extraordinary contributions to the international statistical system—with lasting impact.
 - This presentation describes Katherine’s international contributions and why so many of us around the world will remember her as “the lady statistician.”
 - We conclude by announcing the Wallman Award to continue her legacy.
-



A lady with many hats...

Just a sample of Katherine's many international contributions:

- chair of the Conference of European Statisticians, UN Economic Commission for Europe, from 2003 to 2007.
 - chair of the UN Statistical Commission, the highest body directing international statistical policy, from 2004-2005.
 - vice-chair of the Statistics Committee, OECD from 2009 to 2011
 - an elected member of ISI, and a founding member of the IAOS.
-



...always worn straight.

- Katherine was not the first American nor the first woman to hold these positions.
- But she may have been the best.



Great challenges...greatly met

- During her tenure, the international statistical system faced perhaps the greatest challenges of the era.
- Katherine met these challenges with integrity, grace, and wit.



Transitioning...together

- She championed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which first emerged to assist NSOs as they transitioned from centrally planned to market economies
 - Later, the FPOS become a unifier of official statistics across all UN recognized countries and endorsed by the highest body of the UN.
 - In doing so, Katherine placed the role—and responsibilities--of official statistics squarely within policy-making.
-



Development goals...for all

- Katherine lifted the international statistical community's response in providing indicators and statistics the UN Millenium Development Goals and its successor, the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - These enormous challenges to the organization, volume, complexity, sensitivity, and harmonization of international statistics to inform global policy were unparalleled. They required innovation, trust, and belief.
 - It was Katherine's call for unity that calmed, encouraged, and fortified as all NSOs faced these challenges together.
-



A sustainer...widely sought

- But these positions of responsibility, even during exceptional times in our history, cannot explain the respect, admiration, and friendship so many of her peers held for Katherine.
 - Long after her tenure, she remained a thought leader, a wise counsel, a trusted colleague.
-



A powerhouse...with pearls

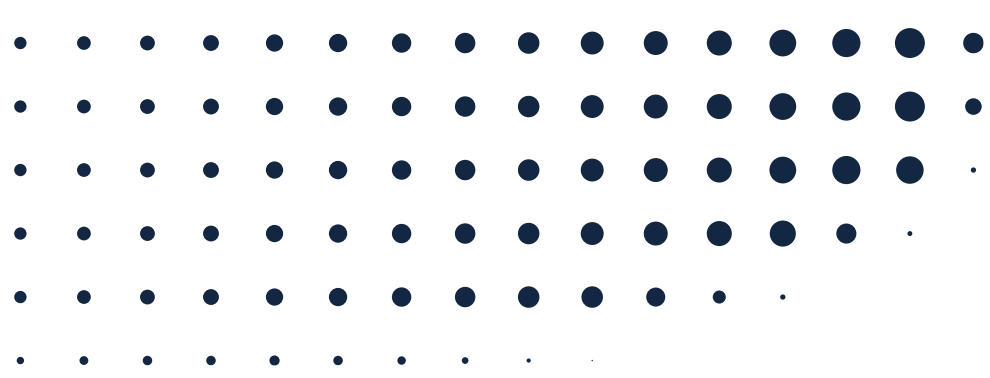
- She served when few women led statistical policy, representing one of the most powerful countries in the world, which could be challenging at times.
 - She was eager to travel and learn about other cultures but was not multilingual.
-



The secret to her magic?

The secret of Katherine's magic is both simple and extraordinary.

As in all of our work, our efforts rest in our personal relationships with others.



WWKD?

- Katherine met people where they were. She found shared values and goals.
 - She believed the best in everyone—and expected it of herself and others.
 - In this belief, she found—and shared—delight, pride, strength, and courage.
 - Katherine would not let you down. Shown that respect, one could not let her down, either. And, together, a way was found.
-



Katherine K. Wallman Award

- The award recognizes work that transforms and strengthens the relevance, credibility, utility, and objectivity of official statistics.
 - These contributions often provide solutions to pressing public policy challenges and strengthen public trust.
 - The award celebrates innovations—whether technical, legal, or procedural—that make a lasting impact on the usefulness of statistics at the federal, state, or local level.
-



Katherine K. Wallman Award

- We are raising \$12,500 to fully fund the award for its first five years.
- Once this goal is met, we will work toward a \$75,000 endowment to ensure the award is presented annually in perpetuity.
- Whatever its size, your gift will move us closer to honoring Katherine and encouraging excellence in our statistical community.

<https://www.amstat.org/your-career/awards/katherine-k-wallman-award>

The Everyday Wisdom
of
Katherine K. Wallman
(1943 – 2024)



“Patience, persistence, perseverance... Payoff!”

[CIPSEA and SPD 1]



“We don’t say no we say ‘Yes, and...’”
[Statistical Standards – MSAs, R/E,
NAICS, etc.]



“Sandy clams!”

[ICSP and Statistical Agency Coordination]



“Things are just peachy!”

[Miscellaneous crises]

