



March 28, 2012

Award Committee for the Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership
Office of the Dean
School of Public Affairs, Ward 310
American University
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016-8022

Dear Award Committee,

I am pleased to nominate Thomas L. Mesenbourg, Jr., for the Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership in recognition for his superior leadership at the U.S. Census Bureau and his significant contributions to the Census Bureau and the federal statistical community. As a superb manager, Tom has an outstanding record of achievement and has initiated numerous workforce development programs that have equipped staff for an ever more challenging future. Tom is a highly respected leader who understands that one of a leader's most important responsibilities is developing the next generation of leaders. Tom has been an exemplary mentor, formally and informally, to numerous Census Bureau employees over the years, many of whom now hold senior management positions and many others who are poised to take on additional responsibilities.

Tom joined the Census Bureau in 1972 and spent most of his career in the Economic Programs Directorate, where he held positions of increasing responsibility including Assistant Director in 1994 and culminating with his appointment as Associate Director in 2005. In 2004, Tom was the recipient of the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Senior Executives, the government's highest award for career executives. More recently, Tom's original and significant contributions to the nation's economic statistics programs were recognized as the recipient of the prestigious 2011 Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics.

In May 2008, Tom was asked to become Deputy Director following the Secretary of Commerce's decision that the Census Bureau would not use handheld computers to collect information from some 50 million households that were expected not to have returned their 2010 Census report form. Reverting back to paper forms and increased costs raised serious doubts whether the Census Bureau could successfully conduct the 2010 Census. Tom took on this challenge and his leadership was critical in getting the 2010 Census program back on track. In January 2009, Tom was appointed Acting Director and took on these additional responsibilities for six months.

I was sworn in as Director of the Census Bureau in July 2009. Since then Tom and I have worked together on a daily basis over the past almost three years. We have much to be proud of including the

successful conduct of the 2010 Census on time and under budget. But, our most important legacy will be the organizational and personnel changes that we have initiated that will position the Census Bureau for what we expect to be an ever more challenging future. Tom has been a partner in these major initiatives and his leadership, deep understanding of the Census Bureau culture, and budget acumen have been invaluable.

Tom's exemplary leadership, his significant contributions over a long and distinguished career, and his devotion to building the next generation of leaders make him most deserving of the Roger W. Jones Award.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert M. Groves". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Regards,".

Robert M. Groves

Director