

25th Annual New Mexico Data Users Conference 2023

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

Charis Ahrens

Charis Ahrens is a Research Scientist who joined the team at The University of New Mexico's Bureau of Business and Economic Research in January 2023. She recently finished up a second Master's degree in Economics from The University of New Mexico, with a concentration in Public Economics. Her first Master's in Economics was from New Mexico State University and concentrated on Public Policy Analysis. With a Bachelor's in Sociology, she considers herself a sociological economist with interests including homelessness, marginalization, unemployment, and labor force participation. She worked with at-risk youth for a while in teen shelters and other programs before realizing that she wanted to help society in a different way.

Charis started in economics as a Governor's Intern at the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions' Economic Research & Analysis Bureau. She then spent five years as a data analyst in the private sector, developing her data analysis skills by working for HP Inc. She is now able to bring those skills in to further her work in her field. Most recently, Charis was a research assistant working on studies related to adult literacy but now she assists with BBER's quarterly New Mexico forecasts (FOR-UNM). On the side, she teaches economics part-time at Central New Mexico Community College.

Kevin Barragan-Smith

Kevin Barragan-Smith is a demographer in the Population Estimates and Projections area of the U.S. Census Bureau. Kevin leads teams tasked with producing and disseminating estimates files for data users via the Population and Housing Unit Estimates website, the Census Bureau's Application Programming Interface (API), and a special tabulations program. Throughout his career, Kevin has dedicated himself to cultivating relationships with external stakeholders as a means to promote continual improvement of the estimates production and dissemination processes.

Chuck Brady

Chuck Brady is chief of the Respondent Outreach and Promotion Branch, Economic Management Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Chuck's office is responsible for providing guidance to respondents and developing response promotion strategies for the five-year Economic Census and more frequently occurring economic surveys.

Chuck holds a bachelor's degree in Marketing from the University of Maryland and has a Masters Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University.

Michelle Doran

Michelle Doran is an Economist for the Economic Research and Analysis Bureau with the State of New Mexico's Department of Workforce Solutions. She has worked for the Bureau for 21 years after she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics from UNM. Michelle is currently the

Program Lead on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program, and the Database Administrator for the One Stop Labor Market Information (LMI) grant. As the Database Administrator, Michelle works with Geographic Solutions' labor market products to publish New Mexico LMI data and helps develop youth career exploration and planning websites for students.

Nidaal Jubran

Nidaal Jubran is a supervisory survey statistician with the Economic Management Division of the United States Census Bureau. He has over 15 years of experience with data collection and analysis, particularly with International Trade and Economic data.

Heather Mechler

Heather Mechler currently serves as the Director of the Office of Institutional Analytics at UNM, a position she has held since 2016. In this role, she manages a team of analysts and data scientists who explore data pertaining to student outcomes and student success. Dr. Mechler's areas of focus in the field of institutional research include predictive analytics, data visualization, equity in data science, and basic needs security in higher education. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with an emphasis on measurement and human development from the University of Alabama. Her academic research focuses on the role of moral judgment development in influencing civic engagement and political beliefs. When she is not crunching numbers, you can find her skiing, singing, reading, or spending quality time with her dogs Mina and MacKenzie.

Jacqueline A. Miller, Ph.D.

Dr. Miller is a Senior Research Scientist and Demographer at the Geospatial and Populations Studies (GPS) Center at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Miller is primarily responsible for population and demographics analyses at GPS, including annual populations and, more recently, biannual projections for New Mexico and its counties. In addition to state and county estimates and projections, Dr. Miller works with local communities and stakeholders to develop customized demographic research projects to support community planning. Dr. Miller's interdisciplinary training supports diverse research projects, with current work focusing on relationship dynamics across the lifespan.

Rachel Moskowitz

Rachel Moskowitz works for the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions in Albuquerque, New Mexico as the chief of the Economic Research and Analysis Bureau. She has a bachelor's degree in economics from The Ohio State University and a master's degree in economics from The University of New Mexico. She has previously worked at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, and the New Mexico Human Services Department.

Michael O'Donnell

Michael 'Mo' O'Donnell is the Director of The University of New Mexico's Bureau of Business and Economic Research. Dr. O'Donnell received a JD and a Masters in Agricultural and Resource Economics, both from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of New Mexico. He is a member of the Arizona State Bar.

For the past decade, Dr. O'Donnell has been responsible for managing BBER's quarterly economic forecasting program. Working closely with Dr. Mitchell, he produces 5-year projections of key economic

variables for the state of New Mexico and its sub-state regions. Projections are used by both public and private-sector clients for budgeting and strategic decision-making.

In addition, Dr. O'Donnell regularly engages in a wide variety of research projects related to tax policy analysis, regulatory analysis, demographic analysis, housing policy, and revenue forecasting. He also conducts water policy research and natural resource analysis and has published articles in scholarly journals and authored book chapters.

Samuel J. Patton

Sam Patton began his career in the Field Division of the U.S. Census Bureau as a Partnership Specialist in 2019. Based out of Houston, Texas, he focused on promoting awareness and response to the 2020 Census through partnerships with non-profits, government leaders, higher education institutions, and various community organizations. Following the completion of the 2020 Census, he continued to work with these partners and began to deliver training on how to access Census data through tools such as data.census.gov. He joined the Dissemination Outreach Branch of the U.S. Census Bureau as a Program Analyst in May 2022, where he continues to help the public explore and access Census data. Sam graduated from the University of Houston with a B.A. in Chinese Studies.

Shawn Penman

Dr. Shawn Penman is a GIS Specialist/Programmer at the Earth Data Analysis Center at the University of New Mexico. She came to EDAC as a student and became a part of the EDAC Staff in 2002. Dr. Penman has 20 years of GIS experience and is a certified GIS Professional (GISP) and a Flood Plain Manager (CFM). Dr. Penman received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico in 2002. Her project experience includes GIS applications for Emergency Management, Wildland fire mapping, and interactive web mapping. She has worked with different software technologies such as ESRI® ArcGIS Desktop and Server, ArcGIS Web APIs – Flex, Silverlight, FEMA Hazus, and ERDAS Imagine. Recently, Dr. Penman has taught GIS in the UNM Geography department as well as for the NMSU NM EDGE Program. She is a member of the New Mexico Geographic Information Council (NMGIC). And currently serves as Secretary for the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association. She is also the New Mexico Cooperating Technical Partner Coordinator for FEMA.

Todd Quinn

Todd Quinn has been an academic librarian for over 20 years, mainly in the social sciences. Currently, he is the Business & Economics Librarian at the University of New Mexico and holds the rank of associate professor (tenured). He is the liaison librarian to the Anderson School of Management, the Department of Economics, the Water Resource Program, the School of Public Administration, the College of Population Health, and the Department of Africana Studies. Part of his role is to support faculty and student research, often helping them discover data and other resources. He hails from Pittsburgh, PA, and enjoys running in the foothills.

Suzan Reagan

Suzan Reagan was hired by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research in 2013 to oversee the BBER Data Bank. The Data Bank has been a member of the US Census Bureau State Data Center Program (SDC) since the late 1970s. Suzan supports the mission of the SDCs by providing public service to anyone

needing assistance in accessing Census data or Labor data. She has served on the SDC Steering Committee for six years. For her work, she received the Gustafson Award in 2021.

Suzan has over 20 years of experience in analyzing industry and occupation statistics for New Mexico's economy. She came from New Mexico's Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS), Economic Research and Analysis Bureau where she worked on a variety of programs involving Labor Market Information. Over the years, she has been requested to do presentations around the state to a variety of audiences ranging from students, career counselors, labor boards, business, policy boards, and different conferences.

Robert Rhatigan

Robert Rhatigan is the director of UNM Geospatial and Population Studies. As head of the Population Estimates and Projections program, he develops demographic geodatabases used to track and analyze births, deaths, migration, building permits, and other indicators of demographic change in New Mexico. Robert is New Mexico's liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau's Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates (FSCPE).

Robert has an M.A. in applied demography from the University of Colorado and has extensive background in GIS, data analysis, and technical communication. He previously worked as an environmental specialist for Texas' largest rural development grant administration firm and as a GIS analyst developing digital recreational trail maps for handheld GPS devices. Robert's written publications include *Working and Living, USA*, a guide for foreigners immigrating to the United States.

Allison Shafer

Allison Shafer is a Supervisory Geographer in the Statistical Areas and Boundaries Branch in the Geography Division at the U.S. Census Bureau. Allison has experience in both the corporate world and government sector and has spent the last seven years of her career in the Geography Division working on many facets of the division's work. This includes supporting and leading geographic partnership programs including outreach and production; contributing to the Geospatial Frames team; and most recently, leading a team producing and maintaining the Census Bureau's statistical areas and boundaries and managing geospatial metadata compliance efforts. Ms. Shafer is passionate about the accuracy, availability, and openness of data. She holds a Master of Science in Data Science and a Bachelor of Science in Geography/GIS with a minor in Anthropology.