

University of Illinois Chicago Partner Meeting

Director's remarks as prepared for delivery

February 17, 2023

- It's an honor to be here in my role as your director of the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Yes, I did say your director. This position serves the public . . . it serves our nation. And that's how I'm approaching my role as a public servant who happens to be in a leadership position.
- But first let me return to my original statement, that it's an honor to be here with you today.
- As we all know, the pandemic challenged our society and impacted our most vulnerable communities. When the pandemic's grip on society was strongest, the Census Bureau still had to deploy a sizeable field force to knock on doors across our nation.
- Despite unprecedented challenges, our career staff came together and completed the job we set out to do—count the resident population of the United States in 2020. I'm incredibly proud of their accomplishments.
- But we didn't do it alone. We needed the public's help, and the help of partners like you. With your help, we adapted our communication and outreach strategies when the pandemic made original plans unworkable.
- Without your support, we could not have achieved the measure of success we attained. We recognize and deeply appreciate that.
- That's why we're seeking ideas about what to research and how to conduct the 2030 Census. Stated briefly, we want and need your help.
- Right now, we are planning for the 2030 Census. As part of that planning, we will be doing a lot of stakeholder engagement—it is very important to receive public input early in the decade and to hear from as many people and communities as possible. Please stay tuned for ways to get involved.
- I am so excited to be part of the decade-long journey working toward the 2030 Census. I can't thank you enough for coming along and helping us write the story of the 2030 Census—from the design to its future execution.
- This is deeply important work. It's a labor of love, and I'm proud that we are formally engaging the public this early in the process. I appreciate your support and enthusiasm and look forward to receiving your ideas.
- Thank you again for having me. That concludes my remarks this morning. Thank you again for your engagement, and invaluable help getting information on the 2020 Census out in Chicagoland. I look forward to our discussion today.