

Solicitation of Interest: FCSM Interest Group on Computational Statistics and the Production of Official Statistics (CSPOS)

Effective 2018, the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) granted permission to found and operate a working group on Computational Statistics and the Production of Official Statistics (CSPOS) under its umbrella. As a first deliverable, the CSPOS interest group, in conjunction with sponsors from Washington Statistical Society and the Interagency R Users Group, hosted the first-of-its-kind Government Advances in Statistical Programming (GASP) workshop at the Bureau of Labor Statistics in October 2018. The workshop brought together producers and consumers of federal data to discuss issues related to access, reproducibility, computational strategies, and implementation in the context of official statistics. (A program and presentation slides from the event are available at <http://washstat.org/presentations/>.) The initial feedback from the GASP workshop was positive, indicating that the workshop and activities related to the discussion of computational statistics in the production environments *provide real value* to the federal statistical community.

Building on the success of GASP, the CSPOS co-chairs would like to extend the invitation to federal agencies to participate in regular meetings and activities, and to help shape the direction that CSPOS will take in 2019. Membership in this FCSM interest group will be limited to federal civil servants, however, contractors and interested parties can provide briefings and participate in specific meetings and workshops. Agencies may have more than one participating member; the participation of agency IT professionals is highly encouraged. Any topics related to computational statistics, and the supporting software, architecture, and implementation needed to produce official statistics are in-scope. We foresee a series of monthly meetings in early 2019 to identify the most promising areas to explore, beginning with a kickoff meeting to be held:

Tuesday, March 5th, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

At the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Janet Norwood Training and Conference Center, Conference Room 3

2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20212

Interested participants should provide their name to Harold Gomes (gomes.harold@bls.gov) no later than Friday, March 1st, so that their names can be provided to BLS security.

Requests for more information can be directed to the CSPOS co-chairs, Nathan Cruze (nathan.cruze@nass.usda.gov) and Harold Gomes (gomes.harold@bls.gov), and our FCSM liaison, Wendy Martinez (martinez.wendy@bls.gov)