Katherine Wallman to Receive 2017 Julius Shiskin Award

Katherine Wallman, recently retired after 24 years as U.S. Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), has been selected to receive the 2017 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. The award recognizes unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Ms. Wallman is recognized **for strengthening the independence of U.S. statistical agencies; expanding confidentiality protection; improving the quality and usability of official statistics; increasing collaboration among the statistical agencies; and improving the reliability and comparability of official statistics throughout the world.**

Her service as the U.S. Chief Statistician has greatly contributed to the development of all types of statistics, to the effective management of statistical programs, and to improving users understanding of official statistics. In addition to strengthening the independence of U.S. statistical agencies by issuing new Statistical Policy Directives, expanding confidentiality protection with new legislation, and improving the reliability and comparability of official statistics throughout the world, she has defended the budgets of economic and demographic statistics programs, and has championed the training of the future leaders of the federal statistical system. Under her successful leadership, Ms. Wallman directed important cross-agency projects, a major accomplishment given that each of the main U.S. statistical agencies report to their parent cabinet level agencies -- agencies that often had different views on the importance of those projects. Ms. Wallman unified this decentralized system through her forward-looking vision and leadership; her ability to build respect and trust at all levels of the agencies, OMB, and the White House; and her grace, charm, good humor.

Ms. Wallman is the 45th recipient of the Award; she will be honored at events hosted by the three sponsors of the award: the Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Section of the American Statistical Association.

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May 15, 2017