



DATA DAY 2012: Using Data to Drive Community Change

Curry Student Center, Northeastern University
Friday, January 27th, 2012
8:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Data Day 2012 Awards

At each Data Day, the conference organizers recognize citizens and public officials who have demonstrated leadership in collecting and using data to drive community change and advance the public interest. The individuals we recognize this year have made a tremendous impact on the Commonwealth's data infrastructure, seeing the importance of technical issues of data collection, sharing, and analysis.

Career Achievement Award

Kathleen Ludgate, U.S. Census Bureau

Kathleen Ludgate has dedicated her career contributing to the collection and dissemination of accurate information about Massachusetts and New England for the U.S. Census Bureau. Her career with the U.S. Census Bureau started in 1975 as a mathematical statistician, and she helped establish and manage programs to provide data access and user training. She was appointed Deputy Director of the Boston Regional Census Center in 1988, and she oversaw data collection and outreach activities for the 1990 and 2000 Censuses. Appointed regional director in 2004, she oversaw a large staff that conducted data collection and other operations for the 2010 Census for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Puerto Rico, and portions of New York. In addition to serving as a skilled administrator, she was a champion for innovative community and partnership efforts to ensure all communities were fully counted. She was recognized with the Census Bureau's Bronze Medal in 1991, U.S. Department of Commerce's Silver Medal in 1998, and the Boston Federal Executive Board Award of Excellence in 2000. Her tireless work is directly responsible for the accuracy of the U.S. Census Data, used to craft public policies, locate new businesses, and allocate millions of dollars of public and private funds for community services each year.

Data Champion Award

Rachel Kaprielian, MassDOT

Rachel Kaprielian is the Registrar at MassDOT's Registry of Motor Vehicles. In this capacity she has spearheaded improvements to the Registry's online services and customer service. In addition she has worked behind the scenes to make the Registry's vehicle inspection database available to researchers. This unique dataset contains a complete picture of the make, model, and miles driven of every vehicle in the Commonwealth. Researchers have used the information to conduct research about vehicle-based greenhouse gas emissions, the influence of neighborhood design on household travel, the potential impact of pay-as-you-drive auto insurance, and plan for changes to the public transportation system. These data sharing partnerships allow evidence-based public policy while safeguarding the privacy of residents, contributing to the Commonwealth's data infrastructure. Before coming to MassDOT in 2008, she served as a State Representative for Watertown and parts of Cambridge for 14 years, developing an impressive legislative record on issues including public health, child welfare, and job training.

Excellence in Information Infrastructure

Joshua Robin, MassDOT

Joshua Robin is the Director of Innovation at the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) and Policy Aide for the Executive Office of Transportation. In these roles, he leads the MassDOT's award-winning Developers Initiative and other initiatives focused on getting drivers and riders timely and accurate information about the transportation system. Through the Developers Initiative, MassDOT has opened data on public transportation routes, schedules, and services. This includes real-time arrival data for the MBTA's buses, Red, Orange, and Blue subway lines, and the Commuter Rail. Thanks to the work of MassDOT's Developer Initiative, dozens of apps, websites, and other services featuring this data have been created at minimal cost to taxpayers. This initiative has made Massachusetts a national leader in the Government 2.0 movement and improved the quality of life of thousands of Massachusetts residents and visitors. In addition, we are happy to note that Josh graduated from Northeastern University in 2009 with a Bachelor's of Science in Political Science.

Excellence in Capturing Local Knowledge

EkOngKar Singh Khalsa, Mystic River Watershed Association

As the Executive Director of the Mystic River Watershed Association, EkOngKar ("Ek") Khalsa oversees the organization's mission to protect and restore the Mystic River, which includes a wide range of public outreach, scientific monitoring and research, and policy advocacy. Facing a lack of hard data about water quality in the river, Khalsa and his staff launched the Mystic Monitoring Network in 2000. Through this program, a team of trained volunteer citizen scientists collect data on a range of water quality indicators at locations throughout the Mystic River watershed. This data has enabled the group to produce baseline reports tracking water quality in the river across a 10-year period. Made available through printed reports and innovative online maps, this project combines scientific rigor with local knowledge and participation to protect public health and guide restoration of an important natural resource.

Excellence in Public Management

Mayor Joseph Curtatone, City of Somerville

After taking office in January 2004, Somerville Mayor Joe Curtatone has made the innovative use of data at the heart of efforts to improve city management and promote civic engagement. SomerStat is a performance management initiative modeled after programs in New York and Baltimore that uses timely data and regular meetings to drive municipal efficiency and innovation. The city's ResiStat Program is an effort to expand this program to city residents through enhanced transparency, civic engagement, and data collection. ResiStat includes data-driven community meetings, an online community forum and email list, and innovative community surveys. As a result of his leadership, the city has won many accolades, including being named "The Best-Run City in Massachusetts" by the Boston Globe Magazine.

Life Time Achievement Award

Jeffrey Stamps

(March 18, 1944-June 11, 2011)

Jeffrey Stamps co-founded and was Chief Scientist at NetAge, Inc., a Boston consulting group focused on networks and cross-boundary work. A Fulbright Scholar, Jeff created some of the earliest data modeling applications and online workspaces for collaboration. He also co-authored, with his wife and business partner Jessica Lipnack, the books *Networking*, *The Age of the Network* and *Virtual Teams* and consulted to many organizations and companies, including the UN, the US Army, Volvo and Royal Dutch-Shell. In 2003, Jeff began work on OrgScope, a tool that enables organizations to visualize all of their connections. Diagnosed with Stage IV pancreatic cancer in 2010, he decided to focus his remaining months on using OrgScope to model the Boston Promise Initiative spearheaded by Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI). Before his untimely death, he had completed a robust network mapping process and had trained people who are now using it as a powerful part of DSNI's approach to community empowerment and resident engagement. Efforts are now underway to make OrgScope freely available as an open source tool, and to integrate it with the open source data visualization platform Weave.