73RD ANNUAL HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM
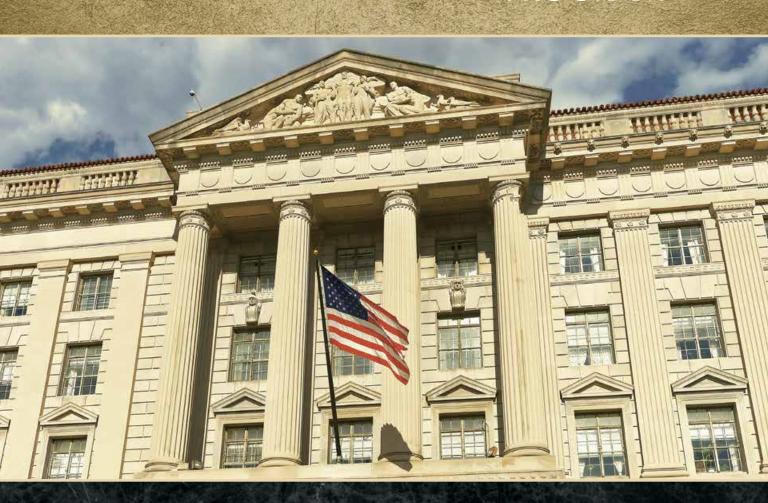
DECEMBER 2021

73ᴿᴰ HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM

HERBERT C. HOOVER BUILDING

1401 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C.

December 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

I'm thrilled to recognize the recipients of the 73rd Annual Department of Commerce Honor Awards.

Since 1949, the Commerce Department has honored the best among us – the employees who have gone above and beyond in support of America's workers, families, and businesses – with the Gold and Silver Honor Awards.

This year's recipients have developed innovative tools and data to help American companies grow and create new jobs. They have advanced our nation's scientific and engineering leadership. They have protected our most important and sensitive technologies. They have applied their talents and expertise across a broad range of programs to help America be the best place in the world to live, work, and do business. And they have done it all while facing the unprecedented challenges that came with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The awards are representations of exceptional work in support of the Commerce Department's goal to improve America's economic competitiveness so that our workers and our companies can succeed in the global economy.

Congratulations to all of the Gold and Silver Honor Awards recipients. Thank you for the dedication and commitment you bring to the Commerce Department's work. I look forward to continuing to work with you to support America's workers, families, and businesses.

Secretary Gina Raimondo
U.S. Secretary of Commerce

GOLD MEDAL

This award, the highest honorary award given by the Department, is granted by the Secretary for distinguished performance characterized by extraordinary, notable, or prestigious contributions that impact the mission of the Department and/or one or more operating units.

SILVER MEDAL

This award, the second highest honorary award given by the Department, is granted by the Secretary for exceptional performance characterized by noteworthy or superlative contributions that have a direct and lasting impact within the Department.

To warrant a Gold or Silver Medal, a contribution must focus on qualitative and quantitative performance measures reflected in the Department's Strategic Plan and be identified in one of the following areas:

Leadership

Personal and Professional Excellence

Scientific/Engineering Achievement

Organizational Development

Customer Service

Administrative/Technical Support

Heroism

GOLD MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Benjamin Mandel
Jeffrey Young
Jeffrey Barnett
Jennifer Lee

Expenditure and Income Division
Bureau of Economic Analysis

Mark Ludwick

Industry Economics Division
Bureau of Economic Analysis

Abe Dunn

Office of the Chief Economist
Bureau of Economic Analysis

Matthew VonKerczek
Marcelo Yoon
Elizabeth Cologer

Regional Income Division
Bureau of Economic Analysis

Kyle Hood

National Economic Accounts Analysis
*   and Research Group*
Bureau of Economic Analysis

The group is honored for rapidly responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by developing new ways to analyze and measure record-setting disruptions to the U.S. economy. They developed new measurement approaches for early estimates of GDP, estimated the economic impacts of Federal recovery legislation, and conducted research using new sources of data that captured changes in spending more quickly. Their work provided better statistics, supplemental data, and unique analyses that helped Americans understand fast-moving changes, and informed policy makers' decisions about how to speed recovery.

GOLD MEDAL

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Thomas Howells
Edward Morgan

Industry Economics Division
Bureau of Economic Analysis

David Wasshausen
Pamela Kelly

Expenditure and Income Division
Bureau of Economic Analysis

Mauricio Ortiz

Office of the Associate Director for
*   Regional Economic Accounts*
Bureau of Economic Analysis

Cliff Woodruff

Regional Product Division
Bureau of Economic Analysis

The group is honored for sweeping organizational change that eliminated barriers to teamwork and fostered innovation, resulting in BEA providing Americans a comprehensive understanding of the economy weeks earlier than previously possible. Through a reorganization and cross-bureau cooperation, BEA became the only statistical agency in the world producing quarterly statistics on gross domestic product (GDP) for the Nation, industries, and states at the same time. Uniting the production of these statistics in 2020 provided a powerful tool to help Americans understand the COVID-19 recession, and to craft recovery aid and plans.

BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

SILVER MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Dennis Fixler

Office of the Chief Economist
Bureau of Economic Analysis

Kyle Hood

National Economic Accounts Analysis
  and Research Group
Bureau of Economic Analysis

Elizabeth Driscoll
Sarah Osborne

Expenditure and Income Division
Bureau of Economic Analysis

Ryan Howley
Nicholas Martinez
Christopher Gohrband

Balance of Payments Division
Bureau of Economic Analysis

David Lenze

Regional Income Division
Bureau of Economic Analysis

Sharon Panek

Regional Product Division
Bureau of Economic Analysis

The team is honored for innovations leading to new statistics on the billions of dollars in hard-to-measure service fees that banks earn on international loans and deposits without directly charging customers. These new statistics improved BEA's flagship product – U.S. GDP and its related statistics – as well as regional and industry GDP and statistics on international trade in services, by making them more comprehensive and accurate. Policymakers, business leaders, and other Americans now have more complete information to make more informed decisions.

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

William Bookout
Kyle Norris
Michael Tu
John Haberstock

Bureau of Industry and Security

The group is honored for conducting a complex international multiagency investigation that successfully identified, disrupted, and ultimately prosecuted individuals and corporations attempting to violate U.S. export control laws. Multiple individuals and companies were indicted, four defendants were arrested and convicted, including an active-duty U.S. naval officer with a TS/SCI (Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmentalized Information) security clearance, for attempting to illegally export U.S.-origin combat raiding craft used by U.S. special operations units.

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Office of Export Enforcement Undercover Unit

*Office of Export Enforcement
Bureau of Industry and Security*

This group is honored for conducting a complex international investigation that successfully identified, disrupted, and prosecuted individuals and corporations attempting to violate U.S. export control laws and U.S. sanctions on Russia. Multiple individuals and companies were indicted, several defendants were arrested and convicted, and millions of U.S. dollars, homes, and vehicles were seized by BIS for attempting to illegally export sophisticated power turbines to a BIS Entity Listed, Russian Government-controlled company.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Kenneth Soo
Hillary Hess
Javier Montalvo
Sheila Quarterman
Anthony Christino
Kent Boydston
Tracy Patts

*Office of the Assistant Secretary
   for Export Enforcement
Bureau of Industry and Security*

Charles Wall
Parvin Huda

*Chief Counsel for Industry and Security
Office of the General Council*

In response to the Burmese military's coup of February 2, 2021, which overthrew the democratically elected government of Burma, this group took immediate action to limit the shipment of goods to Burma's military and security services. The efforts resulted in the February 18 and March 8, 2021, publications of two amendments to the Export Administration Regulations – revising the license review policy for the export of U.S. items to Burma, and especially to the Burmese military, to prevent the shipment of goods without U.S. Government oversight.

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Ariel Joshua Leinwand

*Office of the Assistant Secretary
   for Export Enforcement
Bureau of Industry and Security*

Special Agent Leinwand is honored for using novel and innovative approaches to disrupt terrorist communications and Internet presence by seizing and shutting down Internet domains belonging to terrorist organizations and Specially Designated Nationals – used to promote their terrorist ideology and spread misinformation to their followers. The domains were also used to direct attacks against U.S. interests, soldiers, and allies in the Middle East, and in Iraq in particular.

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

COVID-19 Task Force

U.S. Census Bureau

The organization is honored for enterprise-wide leadership and innovative solutions to ensure the health and safety of Census employees and the public throughout decennial operations during a worldwide pandemic. The group reviewed Census's enterprise operating plans, and quickly implemented administrative and engineering controls to slow the spread of the coronavirus, resulting in a COVID-19 positivity rate of less than 1% with more than 500,000 geographically dispersed employees conducting door-to-door Nonresponse Follow Up activities.

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Deborah M. Stempowski
Jennifer W. Reichert
Michael T. Thieme
Barbara M. LoPresti
James T. Christy
Dale C. Kelly
Albert E. Fontenot Jr.
Timothy P. Olson

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their extraordinary leadership and collaboration in conducting the 2020 Census in a flexible, resilient manner during the global COVID-19 pandemic. They worked together to motivate and direct a massive team of Federal employees and contractors to creatively adapt census data collection and processing operations to multiple schedule changes, natural disasters, court challenges, and external pressures. They maintained the team focus on successfully accomplishing the bureau's mission to conduct a complete and accurate 2020 Decennial Census.

UNITED STATES
CENSUS BUREAU

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Jennifer Hunter Childs
Jason M. Fields
Eloise K. Parker
Jeffrey D. Sisson
Anthony G. Tersine Jr.
Victoria A. Velkoff
David G. Waddington

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for leadership in conceiving the Household Pulse Survey to produce real-time, high-frequency data on the broad social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Engaging multiple Federal agencies in the effort, the team directed the design and deployment of the new survey within 35 days while maintaining the integrity and transparency of Federal statistics. The new survey has been widely lauded as a breakthrough for the Federal statistical system, demonstrating new capabilities for the production of rapid-response data.

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Stacey J. Jordan
Lizannette Velez
Laura A. Sewell
Ellyn J. Pollack
Kristee M. Camilletti
David E. Earles
James S. Cole Jr.
Tonya L. Barbour
Amalfi Martinez
Lakisha M. Cox

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their leadership in successfully managing a $700 million multi-year, multimodal communications' contract. They used extensive research to create unique messaging for targeted audiences, and drove daily decisions on when/where/how to optimize delivery during data collection. The group also significantly contributed to robust online self-response that exceeded expectations, as well as a complete count in spite of unprecedented challenges.

UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Maria Olmedo-Malagon
Kaile H. Bower
Jennifer Costanza Shopkorn
Robin Jane Bachman
Kendall B. Johnson
Willette Allen
Misty L. Reed
Michael C. Cook
Lisa Wolfisch

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their planning, development, and implementation of the 2020 Census Integrated Partnership and Communications (IPC) Operation, rapid execution in optimizing the campaign during the COVID-19 pandemic, and their accomplishment in guiding the Integrated Communications Campaign to mobilize self-response rates that exceeded expectations – surpassing the 2010 Census self-response rate while undergoing a nationwide pandemic.

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Alexa K. Jones-Puthoff
Jennifer Kim
Sheila M. Szanyi
Sarah Konya
Kristen A. Hearns
Leanna M. Mayo
Francis C. McPhillips

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for the creative and innovative design that enabled the public to respond to the 2020 Census. Their inclusive plan and well-tested solutions resulted in successfully offering self-response options to almost 150 million U.S. households continuously over an 8-month period, enabling response anytime and anywhere without requiring a Census ID. The options, provided in 13 languages for the Internet and phone, and English and Spanish by mail, collected nearly 110 million responses directly from the public, exceeding projections and contributing to an accurate census.

UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Amy L. Fischer
Dominic R. Beamer
Sarah Gibb
Alicia V. Green
Nhut Minh Pham Le-Ammons
Kristine Roinestad
Vincent T. Mule Jr.
Rhonda Renee Cleveland
Jennifer L. Weitzel
Donna Leslie Schuler

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their leadership, agility, creativity, and resourcefulness in implementing the 2020 Census Nonresponse Followup operation in the face of constant change brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and historic natural disasters. Shifting a decade's worth of planning, the team launched new business models to meet their mission – visiting 64 million addresses and enumerating nearly 33% of U.S. households to collect information crucial to meeting constitutional requirements for a decennial census.

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Julie A. Lam
Fernando E. Armstrong
Marilyn A. Sanders
Jeff T. Behler
George Grandy Jr.
Cathy Lynn Lacy
John Magruder

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their leadership in executing data collection operations during the unprecedented disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, hurricanes, wildfires, civil unrest, and numerous uncertainties. They had the colossal task of counting people who did not self-respond to the 2020 Census, people who did not live at 'regular' addresses, and people who have no address at all. The group managed staff and operations with finesse, keeping in mind staff safety, operational quality, and goals. Because of their efforts, Census successfully completed data collection.

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Catherine D. Buffington
Lucia S. Foster
Carrie R. Dennis
Sumit Khaneja
Lisa Donaldson
Carol V. Caldwell
Emin Dinlersoz
Stephanie Lee Studds
James W. Hunt
Kathryn Bonney
Nick Orsini
John F. Studds

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for leadership in establishing the Small Business Pulse Survey (SBPS). The SBPS is the first weekly economy-wide survey of businesses conducted within the Federal statistical system, necessitated by the need for timely and granular data during a period of rapid change faced by small businesses. Development of the SBPS demonstrates the ability to produce high-frequency economic data using scientific and transparent methodology to meet policymakers and other data users' needs during the pandemic.

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

William Bradd

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Victor Troyan
Karla L. Allen
Edison Lewark
Stephen Webster James

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for establishing an intelligence-based approach to protect and secure the 2020 Census. The initiative involved close collaboration and information sharing among key Federal partners, and enabled continuous situational awareness of agency and departmental executive leadership. Their novel approach focused on identifying external cyber threats to the 2020 Census, and validating that Census IT systems, operations, and defenses were resilient to known cyber-attacks. The dedicated and professional leaders and staff worked together to accomplish these goals.

UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Ryan W. King
Deborah A. Fenstermaker
Andrew D. Keller
Karen Battle
William K. Koerber
Colleen Hughes Keating
Derek Breese
Lauren Danielle Medina
Thomas Kirk White
Jonathan Spencer Eggleston

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their review of early 2020 Census data, in which issues were detected with the group quarters population data, in part due to pandemic-induced changes in enumeration of facilities. Some facility population counts were either higher or lower than benchmark estimates. An expert group was formed, and in only 2 months, the group researched and analyzed the problem, and then devised and implemented sound statistical strategies for correcting the counts. The end result was a more accurate 2020 Census.

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Vincent T. Mule Jr.
Ryan W. King
Mary Frances Zelenak
Aneesah Williams
Jason E. Devine
Christine Flanagan Borman
Marc J. Perry
Matthew Spence
Jonathan S. Spader
Evan M. Brassell

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their early review of 2020 Census files, for which reviewers determined that population counts often exceeded benchmark population data. Subsequent research found that, in part due to pandemic-related migration, a larger than expected number of duplicate persons in the census were not resolved through normal processing. With very limited time in a tight production schedule, the nominees developed a set of business rules and methodology to identify and remove millions of duplicate persons, thereby improving the accuracy of the 2020 Census.

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Shawn D. Klimek
Nikolas Pharris-Ciurej
Jonathan Spencer Eggleston
Cristina Jazmin Tello-Trillo
Erik R. Vickstrom
Maria Jose Perez Patron
Joseph M. Staudt

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for providing substantial rapid-response technical and data analytics' support for numerous 2020 decennial operations in response to COVID-19. The group provided peer review of the Self-Response Quality Assurance methodology, automated daily COVID-19 reports for executive staff, performed data analytics, and developed automated detailed reports on levels of response for the Group Quarters collection operations. They also supported tasks that expanded the use of administrative records for 2020 operations, and supported the Group Quarters Count Imputation team.

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

John F. Studds
Scott O'Neal
Mohammed Chaudhry
John Gallatin Reed Jr.
Christopher Butler
Brian Ridgeway
Giuseppe Mistichelli
Robert G. Shellhouse
Tamara S. Adams
Donald E. Badrak II
Kristen A. Hearns

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their innovative and successful engineering, implementation, and operation of the Primus data collection system used to collect online responses for the 2020 Census. Their work set the new benchmark for a successful government website, and provided a highly scalable, fault-tolerant, redundant, and ultra-secure Internet data collection. Primus collected 86+ million secure responses during operations with not 1 second of downtime or service interruption to the public while saving millions of taxpayer dollars over traditional data collection methods.

UNITED STATES
CENSUS BUREAU

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Tamara S. Adams
John Cuffe
Samantha L. Barron
Emily Reece
Ryan T. Cecchi
Jennifer L. Weitzel
Alessandro Ferrucci
Sothiara Em
Benjamin Lamont Whitley
Alexander Shea Wooten

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for groundbreaking work developing a new scientific approach using Operations Research, statistical methods, and cutting-edge technology and reporting systems for the 2020 Census that resulted in a 50% productivity increase over the 2010 Census. The revolutionary routing, work assignment, operational control, and reporting systems the team developed and ran supported more than 300,000 Census workers, enabled higher quality census data, and produced efficiencies in Census data collection operations that saved millions of taxpayer dollars.

GOLD MEDAL

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Gwendolyn J. Williams
Jovon Drone
Takesha C. McDaniel

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for leading the charge to care for the wellness and restoration of the workforce via a newly developed virtual/telehealth program. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) built an immediate triage response approach to combat unprecedented stressors. The launch of this program stabilized a combined total of 9,300+ employees via individual and group webinar sessions, noting a utilization rate of 94% of available session slots and capacity available on Census networks. Fielding 12,775 inquiries, their intervention provisions ensured Census operations prevailed over emotional adversity.

GOLD MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Andrea Grace Johnson
Francis C. McPhillips
Robert E. Damario
Julie Grosman
Daniel Donello
Jeremy J. Hilts
Bao-Quan Tran Ho
Staci Jo Zalewski
Edwin J. Brightmon
Steven J. Bainter

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for developing and implementing an innovative way to meet the 2020 Census mission by allowing people to respond anytime, anywhere, regardless of where they lived in the 50 states, Washington, D.C., or Puerto Rico. In an era of declining response rates, the Non-ID response option helped boost self-response rates substantially, accounting for more than 17.7 million individual 2020 returns. The team reduced respondent burden, avoided unnecessary costs for the 2020 Census, and paved the way for further implementation in the United States and abroad.

GOLD MEDAL

ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Anup Mathur
Jaya Damineni
Chad Eric Russell
Shigui Weng
Roy D. Ashley Jr.
David Raymond Klingler
Hampton Wilson III
Theresa M. Toole
Ashley Denele Landreth
Brock E. Webb

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for significant improvements in Census's capability to use the commercial cloud to host Title 26 data while dramatically decreasing time to process data by 92%. For the first time, Census achieved the ability to host Title 26 Data in the AWS GovCloud while engineering a high-performance solution to support the processing of Decennial response files. Thus, the team improved Census's ability to provide timely, relevant, and cost-effective data in a secure, elastic, and highly available environment for future Census products.

UNITED STATES
CENSUS BUREAU

SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Dexter Denis Clouden
Kimberly L. Canada
Tracy S. Newman
Rhonda Renee Cleveland
Nelson Lip Chye Er
Jay Occhiogrosso
Seantoia DeJanique Straatman
Joseph Ryan Jr.
Karen C. Field

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their design, development, and implementation of the first-ever paperless blended training programs for 2020 Address Canvassing, Update Leave, GQ, PES, and Nonresponse Followup decennial census operations. More than 400,000 trainees completed the training. Based on a comprehensive review of the quantitative and qualitative data, the results show that the training program was extraordinarily effective in providing confidence and competency. The new training approach paves the way for replacing paper-based training methods for non-decennial operations and future censuses.

SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Bethany S. DeSalvo
Gabriel H. Amaro
Wesley W. Basel
Katherine An C. Willyard
Alfred O. Gottschalck
R. Chase Sawyer

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for identifying and meeting the need for precise resilience data for local communities. The newly developed Community Resilience Estimates measure the capacity of individuals and households in a community to absorb, endure, and recover from the external stresses of the health, social, and economic impacts of a disaster. The group created the estimates with innovative modeling techniques using existing survey and administrative data to provide estimates early in the pandemic at minimal cost. The data are being used to facilitate pandemic and economic recovery.

SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Sharon L. Burnette
Wilson T. Gray III
Richard Thornton Edwards
Emily Krutsch
Everette G. Whiteley
Kerri Givens
Jamie A. Walsh
Benjamin James Page
Whitney L. Duffey-Jones
Benjamin Karl Taylor

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their agility, creativity, and responsiveness in supporting operational challenges faced by 2020 Census staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Exemplifying effective crisis management, the group increased allocations for the field and IT operations, secured and mobilized contingency funds, and crafted legislation to ensure operational safety and solvency while prioritizing 2020 Census operational readiness. Their actions enabled success by making critical resources immediately available for operations during the unprecedented crisis.

SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

David E. Hackbarth
Frank J. Fisiorek
Joshua Steven Sanchez
Mark Emory Markovic
Sean Robert McLaren
Christopher Alan Garza
Eric Atala
Steven Ernest Angel
Lauren Ashley Withum
John W. Donnelly

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their implementation and execution of the 2020 Census dDaaS Program, which involved the purchase, provisioning, distribution, and return of more than 731,000 devices for office and field personnel used to conduct the 2020 Census. The program included the design and implementation of an asset management tracking system that enabled employees at all levels of the organization to account for the status of each individual device from the point of delivery, through data collection, to the return of each device. A loss of less than 0.35% of the devices was achieved.

UNITED STATES
CENSUS BUREAU

SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Jana Louise Smith Post
Thomas M. Sherman
Calvin C. McFarland
Jimmy Lee Daniels
Joseph Vincent Roazzi
Karen Nicole Hall
Allen R. Wells
Donald K. Carrow
Thomas Kenneth Szabla

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for the acquisition, provisioning, and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the 2020 Census. In response to the COVID-19 virus outbreak, the PPE program involved the purchase, provision, and distribution of more than 27.1 million units of PPE to 255 offices for Census personnel and public use. The program included identifying necessary quantities and types of PPE for each office and field operation, across all levels of the organization, to enable staff to safely perform their responsibilities and successfully complete the 2020 Census.

SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Olajumoke Oyewole
John P. Miller
Kristin J. Stettler
Melissa A. Cidade
Alexandra Clair Abzun Cadenas
Daniel Cordes
Mary D. Mckoy
Rachel Lynn Butler
Nicole Davis
Michael Lopez Pelliccia
Philip Jarret Kanzleiter
Jeffrey Buchoff

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their dedication and diligence in operationalizing the Small Business Pulse Survey (SBPS). The SBPS is the first weekly economy-wide survey of businesses conducted within the Federal statistical system, necessitated by the need for timely and relevant data during a period of rapid change faced by small businesses. New process- and technological-innovations developed completely within Census for the SBPS serve as prototypes for future high-frequency business survey collections.

UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU

Shawn P. Barber
Casey Eggleston
Thomas File
Jessica Leigh Holzberg
David V. Hornick
Cassandra Logan
Sandra Peterson
Scott W. Raudabaugh
Hyon B. Shin
Jeffrey Stark

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their innovative production of data products that inform in real time the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on American households. While fielding interviews to 1 million households every 2 weeks, the team developed a suite of public files and tables widely praised for their utility to Federal and state pandemic responders. The team established a cadence to enable the release of updated files every 2 weeks, tracking this highly dynamic period, and demonstrating new capabilities within the Federal statistical system for producing high-frequency data.

Luis J. Cano
Barbara M. LoPresti
Kenneth W. Walker
Donald E. Badrak II
Curtis L. Broadway
John Moulton
James W. Csoka
Mark Emory Markovic
Douglas A. Curtner
Tamara S. Adams

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for their development of a massive, secure, cloud, and on-premises computing infrastructure using the latest technologies and security capabilities to support the largest census in U.S. history. Their work supported a technologically advanced 2020 Decennial Census with rock-solid system dependability for all Census respondents and hundreds of thousands of workers, protecting the security and confidentiality of every single response.

UNITED STATES
CENSUS BUREAU

SILVER MEDAL

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Phani-Kumar Atri Kalluri
Paul Krutsch
Raphael S. Corrado
Robin A. Pennington
Deanna L. Wilson
Michael J. Licavoli
James B. Lawrence
David Haskins
Lil Paul Reyes
Joan Marie Hill

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for establishing the 2020 Census Fusion Center, the first of its kind, which served as a centralized unit focused on analyzing disruptions with the potential to impact the census, and strengthening information sharing across the program. The Fusion Center created new, effective methods of cross-directorate information sharing using innovative monitoring tools, streamlined processes/procedures, and clear and concise incident assessment criteria – providing a seamless flow of timely, accurate, and consistent information to Census executive staff.

SILVER MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Mark Emory Markovic
Justin L Mclaughlin
John W. Donnelly
Douglas A. Curtner
Brian De Vos
Kenneth W. Walker

U.S. Census Bureau

The group is honored for delivering groundbreaking customer service on the purchase, provisioning, shipping, and decommissioning of the largest provision of iOS devices ever supported; providing help desk support for field staff; providing the automation tools and support needed for 248 Area Census Offices, 6 Island Area Offices, 6 Regional Census Centers, and 2 Paper Data Capture Centers for the 2020 Census. The group created an exceptional, scalable, flexible, easy to use, and effective customer service model for delivering automation tools to conduct the 2020 Census.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Christopher Anderson
Rachael Gamble
Bernadette Grafton
Mitchell Harrison
David Ives
Happy Rahman
Jeffrey Roberson
Ryan Servais
Ryan Smith

Supplemental Grant Funding Innovation Team
Economic Development Administration

The group is honored for creativity and diligence in designing an innovative grant program to rapidly award nearly $778 million in supplemental assistance in order to expedite economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The team devised the award process, developed new application materials, prepared guidance, and conducted extensive training. Because of their efforts, EDA was able to award assistance equal to more than 2 years of standard annual appropriations in just 3 months, putting resources into the hands of needy communities across the Nation.

SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Marguerite McGinley

Philadelphia Regional Office
Economic Development Administration

Ms. McGinley is honored for her strong work ethic, professionalism, and career commitment to EDA, which motivated her to lead the Investment Development Team and the Philadelphia Regional Office in accomplishing a critically difficult assignment – the rapid deployment of CARES funding while maintaining employee morale. After 35 years of exemplary Federal service, Ms. McGinley supported management and staff by extending her intended retirement date in order to assist with the mission-critical deployment of unanticipated CARES Act funding. The unexpected funding assistance was successfully received and deployed in addition to the regular program and disaster supplemental allocations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Shalini Bansal
Richard Berndt
Maiea Sellers
Kerstin Millius

Seattle Regional Office Organizational
Change Team
Economic Development Administration

The group is honored for exemplary leadership in implementing organizational change to support regional CARES Act and disaster recovery efforts. Their leadership enabled the Region to manage an increase in program funding from a baseline of $35 million to nearly $500 million, along with an expansion of staff, while exceeding agency goals for program implementation. The team trained new staff in a remote environment; planned and executed changes to support management needs; and established and revised processes to review the increased volume of new applications.

INTERNATIONAL
TRADE ADMINISTRATION

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Michael Rosales
Juanita Harthun
Dan Kim
Derrick Small
Ana Paula Vila
Naz Demirdoven
Sandra Hernandez
Saad Ahmed
Feng Tan
Yu Ohashi

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

Chaos breeds innovation! This team is honored for resilience and acumen in developing breakthrough strategies of finding new and effective ways to achieve the agency's mission. The team helped to sustain the global automotive industry via their Back 2 Business – Virtual B2B Auto Expo. The 3-week B2B/B2G matchmaking event connected virtually 206 automotive suppliers from the United States with 219 Pre-Screened International Buyers from 51 foreign markets across Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the Western Hemisphere.

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Joseph Flynn
Adam Vaccaro

Industry and Analysis
International Trade Administration

Eric Longnecker

Office of the Assistant Secretary for
*   Export Administration*
Bureau of Industry and Security

John Cobau
William Hamby-Hopkins

Chief Counsel for International Commerce
Office of the General Counsel

Adrienne Frazier
Elizabeth Abraham

Chief Counsel for Industry and Security
Office of the General Counsel

The group is honored for implementing the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act, which enhanced national security by revamping the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and expanding its jurisdiction over foreign investments. The group coordinated with other CFIUS agencies to prepare regulations, worked with senior leadership to obtain resources, hired new staff, and developed new internal procedures and expertise. In so doing, the Department was able to carry out its new duties and undertake lead agency responsibilities for mitigating national security threats.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Jennifer Boger
Benjamin Carlson

Industry and Analysis
International Trade Administration

David Edmiston
Mona Musa
Jennifer Loffredo
Michael Marangell
Aliza Totayo

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

Glenn Kaminsky

Chief Counsel for International Commerce
Office of the General Counsel

The group is honored for extraordinary coordination of ITA's support of both U.S. industry and U.S. Government (USG) partners during the COVID-19 pandemic. This intra-ITA team initiated action in March 2020, serving as internal and external knowledge brokers to address hundreds of daily inquiries from U.S. companies, interagency partners, and foreign entities about the availability and import/export of critical protective equipment and medical products. The team pivoted quickly to create and deploy procedures and enhanced communication measures to address urgent supply chain and trade issues.

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Geri Word
Alexis Rigoberto Tercero-Chacón
David Olsen
Eric Olson
Paul V. Oliva
Dawn Bruno
Braeden Young
Marixell Garcia
Nicole DeSilvis Prado

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

Scott Kennedy

Industry and Analysis
International Trade Administration

The group is honored for superlative leadership and management in addressing U.S.–Mexico supply chain disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mexico Supply Chain Task Force worked quickly to identify concerns in key industries, and delivered focused, actionable, and fact-based counsel to U.S. industry on managing inspections, appeals, and reopening efforts in Mexico. The group's tireless work helped more than 400 U.S. firms avert closures and avoid long-lasting disruptions to bilateral and regional supply chains that would have negatively impacted tens of thousands of U.S. jobs.

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Jason Travis Mosier

Enforcement and Compliance
International Trade Administration

Matthew Quigley
Jason Chang
Jackie Hong
Andrew Gately
Simon Kim
Seth Isenberg
Priscilla Baek

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

The group is recognized for exceptional efforts to secure a $12 billion investment by TSMC to construct a state-of-the art semiconductor manufacturing facility in Arizona. The group executed a multipronged strategy that included recruiting TSMC to attend the SelectUSA Summit, assisting the firm to overcome numerous high-stakes obstacles, and driving frequent engagement by a former Secretary of Commerce and other USG officials. The facility will produce the most advanced semiconductors in the United States thereby strengthening the Nation's industrial base in a critical technology.

SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Julie Al-Saadawi
Julia Hancock
Bhargav Desai
Alis Asadurian
Derek King
Kamila Khamidova
LiHong Russo
Hugh Smachlo
Elisabeth Urfer

Enforcement and Compliance
International Trade Administration

Jessica Link

Chief Counsel for Trade Enforcement
*   and Compliance*
Office of the General Counsel

The Steel Import Monitoring Team is recognized for their exceptional work in creating new regulations, and modernizing Commerce's steel import-monitoring system, which provided U.S. industry with a potent tool to help identify potential transshipment and circumvention of Commerce's antidumping and countervailing duty orders that protect American businesses and workers from unfairly traded foreign products. The team demonstrated outstanding dedication, professionalism, and collaboration, and leveraged expertise from different parts of the Department to ensure success of the modernization.

INTERNATIONAL
TRADE ADMINISTRATION

SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Chris Rasmussen
Julian Richards
Amanda Reynolds

Industry and Analysis
International Trade Administration

The group is honored for enabling policy makers to accurately gauge the cost of making ICTS (information and communications technology and services) supply chains more secure. Within just a few weeks, the group developed a methodology, gathered necessary data, and calculated costs to determine the burden on U.S. firms of complying with the Department's Securing the ICTS Supply Chain rule. OMB deemed the rule "economically significant" and required an extensive Regulatory Impact Analysis. OMB accepted the group's analysis on the cost component of the RIA, which was then included in the rule's ultimate publication in the *Federal Register*.

SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Elizabeth Clark
Scott Kennedy
Jeffrey Williams
Katrice Kelly

Industry and Analysis
International Trade Administration

Glenn Kaminsky
Alexandra Chaffin

Chief Counsel for International Commerce
Office of the General Counsel

The award nominees provided advice on the implementation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement to the Interagency Committee on Trade in Automotive Goods. The team engaged industry and legal expertise required to carry out the provisions of the trade agreement, including implementing the rules of origin provisions, commenting on the alternative staging plans, and conducting industry engagement explaining the new auto-related provisions.

INTERNATIONAL
TRADE ADMINISTRATION

SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Judy Kornfeld
Jessica Gordon
Amina Brock
Richard Swanson
Joan Morgan
Ryan Rhodes
Chris Damm
Cathy Feig
Yazmin Rojas
Carey Arun

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

In 2020, the Department's first-ever Women's Global Trade Empowerment Forum (WGTEF), in its six-part livestreamed series, attracted 1800+ registrants. Unfamiliar with online broadcasting, the team worked with a video producer to coordinate the six online sessions, and ensured seamless WGTEF programming. Far outside their daily job parameters, the team tirelessly learned the online platform, trained forum speakers, created scripts, and executed a marketing strategy complete with podcasts. The WGTEF also featured B2B and B2G meetings and the creation of 42 marketing plans through counseling and mentorship.

SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Brittany Banta
Robyn Garfield
Tshanda Kalombo
Cameron Werker
Patrice Williams
Aaron Held
Damjan Bencic
Moritz von Holst

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

Jonathan Chesebro
Benjamin Carlson

Industry and Analysis
International Trade Administration

The group is honored for work to strengthen U.S. economic national security by leveraging greater interagency coordination to assist U.S. firms competing against Chinese and Russian firms in two strategic European sectors: security scanning equipment and small modular reactors. Their whole-of-USG compete in Europe strategy resulted in 13 deals for U.S. firms – worth $180 million in the security scanner market – as well as establishment of the first-ever SMR Workshop with U.S. and EU public and private sector leaders, with a U.S. company signing an MOU to supply a Bulgarian nuclear power plant.

INTERNATIONAL
TRADE ADMINISTRATION

SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Mike Calvert
Giancarlo Cavallo
Maria Luisa Escudero
Barbara Farrar
Andrew Glass
Heather Helm
Desi Jordanoff
Stephanie Smedile
Fred Stewart

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

Tricia Van Orden

Executive Administration
International Trade Administration

The group is honored for implementing a transformative improvement to whole-of-USG support for U.S. companies competing for business opportunities overseas. Their actions included establishing Embassy-based deal teams at 150 posts, and coordinating interagency intervention across 13 organizations. This involved no less than 600 trade and economic officials, tracking 1,400+ export and investment opportunities valued at $1.1 trillion. In the year since the initiative was launched, deal teams supported 83 export and investment wins by U.S. companies, valued at $76.5 billion.

SILVER MEDAL

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

International Trade Administration

The Diversity and Inclusion Working Group (DIWG) is recognized for building the strong foundation on which ITA's Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) program will continue to grow. Demonstrating incredible collaboration and dedication, the DIWG created numerous resources for employees, encouraged recruitment from diverse forums through updates to supervisors' performance plans, and drafted the charter for a permanent Council to serve as an enduring advisory body on meaningful D&I opportunities. Moreover, the group enabled a cultural shift that recognizes and celebrates the importance of D&I at the International Trade Administration.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

SILVER MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Jeff Okun-Kozlowicki
Julie Geiger
Paul Morris
Vidya Desai
Garrett Peterson

Industry and Analysis
International Trade Administration

Greg Adel
Thomas Shorts
Chad Root

Executive Administration
International Trade Administration

Evangeline Keenan

Enforcement and Compliance
International Trade Administration

Michele Lynch

Chief Counsel for Trade Enforcement
*   *and Compliance*
Office of the General Counsel

The TAS E-filing team is recognized for creating an online platform to manage Free Trade Agreement disputes. In just 6 months, the team developed a system that delivers procedural fairness and increased transparency via a public reading room. In its first month, TAS E-filing handled two U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement disputes involving $6 billion of imports, nearly 100 registrants, and 140 filings. The platform enables staff and customers to work securely from anywhere, and delivers a return on investment in excess of $2 million in savings to the American taxpayer.

SILVER MEDAL

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Terri L. Batch
Jasmine P. Braswell
Derrick Small

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

The nominees are honored for their courage and commitment to improve inclusion and community in the International Trade Administration. In June 2020, with no template or road map, the nominees took action to create a space for Black employees to process the confluence of racial, social, and economic challenges; engage ITA leadership, and set in motion ground-breaking employee engagement at all levels of the organization. The nominees recognized the urgency of the crisis, and voluntarily raised their voices in a demonstration of leadership, courage, and compassion for their colleagues, families, and the entire organization.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

SILVER MEDAL

ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Jennifer Moats

Enforcement and Compliance
International Trade Administration

The nominee is recognized for extraordinary initiative, leadership, technical expertise, creativity, and commitment in developing a cost saving, data-management tool for AD/CVD (antidumping and countervailing duties) cases. The AD/CVD Case Hub not only results in significant costs savings but allows key information to be viewed in ways that facilitate better management of AD/CVD cases. The Case Hub also identifies essential statistics used for press documents, budget briefings, and Congressional correspondence.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

GOLD MEDAL
LEADERSHIP

Kaitlin Boeckl
Lisa Carnahan
Dylan Gilbert
Nakia Grayson
Naomi Lefkovitz
Maihuong Nguyen
Victoria Yan Pillitteri
Adam Sedgewick

Information Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

Recognized for exceptional leadership and technical skill in developing the world's first framework for managing privacy risk, the group achieved consensus on a flexible and voluntary framework that enables organizations to protect individuals' privacy while embracing the beneficial uses of data, and encouraging technical innovation. Their groundbreaking approach resulted in rapid global adoption of the framework by Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, governments, and organizations across diverse economic sectors.

GOLD MEDAL
LEADERSHIP

Carl Williams

Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

Dr. Williams is recognized for his strategic and multipronged approach to advancing U.S. leadership in the fiercely competitive field of quantum technology, expected to define the global economic landscape for decades. Dr. Williams spearheaded, and guides, a preeminent quantum research program at NIST; worked across agencies to establish a national quantum vision with supporting legislation; formed two joint institutes; and established an industry consortium to address supply chain and workforce needs that is so successful that Dr. Williams is now helping like-minded countries replicate it.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

NIST Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The MEP team is honored for quickly implementing the CARES Act to provide critical support for U.S. manufacturers through the National Network of MEP Centers at a time when the global pandemic posed a formidable economic threat. Their actions enabled manufacturers to implement appropriate safeguards to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 among employees, and to pivot to new markets when major drivers such as tourism disappeared. The MEP team went above and beyond their normally assigned duties to conduct the program in record time without compromising transparency or accountability.

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Scott Diddams
Matthew Hummon
B. Robert Ilic
John Kitching
Scott Papp
Kartik Srinivasan
Daron Westly

Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and Technology

The team is recognized for developing the 2-photon optical clock – the first optical clock based on integrated photonics – that realizes the power of optical timekeeping in a miniaturized system. Their revolutionary next-generation chip-scale atomic clock integrates vapor-cell atomic instruments and microcombs to improve stability by as much as 1,000 times over state-of-the-art chip-scale clocks. Their breakthrough research enhances timing for applications that underpin everything from high-speed telecommunications for stock market transactions to secure precision navigation systems.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

David Deisenroth
Jason Fox
Brandon Lane
Jared Tarr
Ho Yeung

Engineering Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

Steven Grantham
Clarence Zarobila

Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

Jay Nanninga

Management Resources
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

The team is recognized for developing the Additive Manufacturing Metrology Testbed (AMMT), an unparalleled research platform to make world-class measurements of complex physical phenomena associated with metal additive manufacturing (AM) processes. New AMMT measurement capabilities and resulting data have enabled improved AM process models, innovative monitoring and control solutions, and novel calibration tools, which allow manufacturers to dramatically improve the speed and reliability of AM process and product development to capitalize on the competitive advantages of AM technology.

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Elzafir Elsheikh
Sarah Inwood
Sheng Lin-Gibson
Linhua Tian
Lili Wang

Material Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

The group is recognized for developing quantitative assays to detect exposure to COVID-19 and improve speed of response to the ongoing pandemic. In 9 months, the group established NIST as a leader in interagency coordination and global standards development; produced antibody assays to underpin global diagnostics, surveillance, and vaccine development; and enabled the development of World Health Organization reference materials distributed worldwide. The group's efforts directly supported accurate clinical tests for COVID-19 today and for potential future pandemics.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Oliver Borchert
Douglas Montgomery
Kotikalapudi Sriram

Information Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
*   and Technology*

Patrick Gleichmann

Office of Information Systems Management
National Institute of Standards
*   and Technology*

The team is recognized for outstanding contributions in the design, standardization, and widespread deployment of technologies to resolve critical vulnerabilities in the Internet's routing infrastructure. In their collaboration with industry partners, the team developed innovative techniques to mitigate cyber-attacks against the Internet, subverting catastrophic failures. Their work has been a driving force in protecting U.S. critical infrastructure from international threats.

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Megan Cleveland
Nathanael Olson
Erica Romsos
Stephanie Servetas
Carolyn Steffen
William Valiant
Peter Vallone

Material Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
*   and Technology*

Hariharan Iyer

Information Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
*   and Technology*

The group is recognized for their rapid development of a SARS-CoV-2 Research Grade Test Material, RGTM 10169, to assess RNA-based diagnostic tests and benchmark SARS-CoV-2 test control materials. The RGTM was designed, produced, and shipped to stakeholders within 90 days from project inception. The material consists of highly characterized RNA fragments that contain sequences from the SARS-CoV-2 genome. More than 200 units were provided to domestic (84) and international (52) stakeholders including diagnostic laboratories, developers of tests, and metrology institutes.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Jason Austermann
James Beall
Gene Hilton
Johannes Hubmayr
Jeffrey Van Lanen
Michael Vissers
Jordan Wheeler

Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
    and Technology

The team is recognized for scientific breakthroughs in device design and materials' development in producing cameras containing thousands of novel sensors for detecting terahertz and millimeter-wave radiation. The team's new sensors enable imaging arrays of unprecedented size and sensitivity for a range of future terrestrial and astrophysical applications. The sensors have already been used on a NASA balloon mission and in TolTEC, a camera for the Large Millimeter Telescope Alfonso Serrano, the world's largest single-dish steerable millimeter-wavelength telescope.

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Ellen Voorhees

Information Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
    and Technology

Dr. Voorhees is recognized for her outstanding initiative and leadership in engineering the rapid and rigorous evaluation of automatic search technologies used in viral research for COVID-19, SARS-CoV2, and similar viruses. Her work has enabled researchers, clinicians, and policy makers to obtain information more quickly and accurately, across the daily deluge of scientific research literature, saving precious time in the global battle against the pandemic.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Brian Burnham
Ruben Rodriguez

Office of Facilities and Property Management
National Institute of Standards
*   and Technology*

Edward Cope
William Jenkinson
Christopher Kucko
Ramil Palmaira
Jonathan Repaci
Derek Ward

Office of Information Systems Management
National Institute of Standards
*   and Technology*

The group is recognized for cross-organizational leadership and creativity beyond normal conditions, resulting in a new state-of-the-art Boulder Computing Facility (BCF) able to meet future research needs. The team expertly united construction, administrative, IT, and scientific experts to identify computing and network requirements, designing and overseeing the construction of the new facility while creatively meeting daily mission needs. The team addressed challenging project issues with extraordinary commitment and ingenuity – insuring the delivery of a world-class computing facility.

SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Kyle Anderson
Luke Arbogast
Robert Brinson
Frank Delaglio
Jeffrey Hudgens
Ioannis Karageorgos
John Marino

Material Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
*   and Technology*

Ryan Evans
Anthony Kearsley

Information Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
*   and Technology*

The group is honored for advancing the state-of-the-art in methods for determining the higher order protein structure of biotherapeutics. They led two technically challenging international comparison studies, establishing the reproducibility and limitations of novel precision measurement methods. They also developed new data acquisition and analysis tools and new hardware to address method limitations. Their actions have hastened broad industry adoption, and provide a foundation for measurements that ensure quality and accelerate development of lifesaving biotherapeutics and biosimilars.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Martin Green
Joshua Martin
Winnie Wong-Ng

Material Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

The team is recognized for seminal work to enable the discovery, characterization, and commercialization of thermoelectric energy conversion materials and devices. They accomplished it by developing instrumentation and metrologies that characterize fundamental properties of bulk and thin films with world-leading accuracy, and for marketing the first two thermoelectric SRMs (Standard Reference Materials) covering a broad range of relevant temperatures. Their internationally recognized body of work was critical for establishing consensus in the thermoelectric community.

SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Thomas Gerrits

Information Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

Robert Horansky

Communications Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

Adriana Lita
Richard Mirin
Sae Woo Nam
Marty Stevens
Varun Verma

Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

The group is recognized for their exceptional scientific achievement culminating in the first demonstration of an array of superconducting nanowire single-photon detectors (SNSPDs) with more than 1,000 pixels. The NIST array represents a 15X improvement in size and pixel count, and over one hundred million times better noise properties than conventional arrays. Such arrays of SNSPDs are required for the most demanding applications of imaging at ultralow light levels for astronomy, deep space communications, and medical imaging. The group's technology is already being adopted by industry.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING
ACHIEVEMENT

Jason Blake
Robert Gendler
Blair Heiserman

Office of Information Systems Management
National Institute of Standards
    and Technology

Murugiah Souppaya
Eric Trapnell
Mark Trapnell
Dylan Yaga

Information Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards
    and Technology

The group is recognized for developing the first SCAP 1.3 technical content for multiple macOS operating systems. The project provides a consistent and repeatable approach to secure, assess, and monitor macOS systems. This enhances worldwide macOS cybersecurity through an open-source framework that maps technical controls to compliance frameworks, greatly reducing the duration and level of effort required for compliance. The team's content was released before the public release of the operating system by using the public beta period, which enabled immediate implementation of the new macOS.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Ko Barrett

*Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
    Administration*

Ms. Barrett served as the Report Champion for the IPCC Special Report on the Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. In this role, she shepherded the report from conception to approval and played a prominent role in facilitating its approval and communicating its findings to scientific audiences and the general public. This accomplishment advanced climate science, nationally and internationally, by providing climate-science information to scientists, decision-makers, and the public, including being directly quoted more than 1,700 times in the global press.

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Andy Mathews

*National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
    Administration*

Mr. Mathews is honored for his pioneering approach in conducting a multiyear criminal investigation that revealed false reporting of catch data on a large scale. Mr. Mathews used a unique combination of software to identify approximately $4.5 million ex-vessel value in illegally harvested halibut and sablefish. The investigation is the largest individual fishing quota (IFQ) case ever completed in the Alaska program. These species would have had a market value of $13 million. The investigation revealed that the illegal activity had a global biological impact of 903,208 pounds of IFQ species unlawfully harvested over multiple years.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
*   Administration*

The organization is honored for exceptional operational performance during the coronavirus pandemic and historic, record-setting 2020 hurricane season. Beginning in April and continuing through December 2020, the AOC flew more than 1,600 hours on five unique platforms, dropped 1,000+ weather instruments, and collected 50,000 emergency response images. Leveraging a mature risk management process and on-site medical support staff, all missions were conducted while operating under strict COVID-19 protocols to ensure workforce safety while simultaneously making NOAA data collection a priority.

GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson*

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
*   Administration*

The staff of NOAA ship *Thomas Jefferson* are honored for the accelerated reconstitution of their ship amidst a pandemic, pioneering COVID-19 mitigation strategies while underway, and for emergency response operations during a record-setting hurricane season. They were the first NOAA ship to implement rigorous new COVID-19 risk reduction protocols, helping to pave the way for the NOAA fleet's safe return to at-sea missions during the pandemic. Their hurricane emergency response efforts included locating an unknown navigational hazard (a sunken barge) in a busy Louisiana shipping channel.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

John Tsui
Bruce Plott
Thaddeus Johnson
Diane Robinson
Richard Hanson
Todd Schira
Michael Anderson
John T Custis
Robert L. Snead
Gregg Frostrom

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is honored for the innovative engineering and cost-saving achievement of redeploying an existing on-orbit satellite to the other side of the globe to meet the Department of Defense's highest priority in weather monitoring. This required the complexities of the longest drift of a U.S. weather satellite with minimum fuel use to extend the satellite's life, and building a new remote ground system in Western Australia but controlled in the United States. These technical achievements enabled a vital capability – providing constant weather surveillance over the Indian Ocean for the DOD – while avoiding an $850 million investment on a new satellite.

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Gabriel Brooks
Gordon Axel
Sandra Downing
Matthew Nesbit
Jesse Lamb

National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is honored for developing a groundbreaking electronic fish detection system in a large dam. One million juvenile Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmonids are annually marked with electronic "PIT" tags in the Snake River Basin, to be detected at points throughout the rest of their lives. The majority of the salmonids pass dams via spillways, where detection was previously impossible. This innovative system will provide more precise survival and travel time estimates, improving understanding of dam passage behavior, while detecting 126,000 fish that otherwise would have been absent.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

GOLD MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Thomas Graziano
Edward Clark
John Murphy
Donna Page
Troy Wilds
Jocelyn Burston
Christina Heyse
Mary Mullusky
Paula Cognitore
Peggy Lee

National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
  Administration

The group is honored for establishing National Water Center (NWC) operations, including the infrastructure, staffing, and collaborative relationships that enabled street-level actionable water intelligence on a national scale for the first time in U.S. history. This capability pushed the National Weather Service to deliver better forecasts, earlier warnings, and clearer communication of high-impact water events as demonstrated in enhanced Impact-based Decision Support Services provided during the Plymouth, NH major flood event in April 2020, where critical infrastructure was closed well in advance of flooding.

GOLD MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

National Weather Service – Southern Region

National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
  Administration

The NWS Southern Region is honored for delivering extraordinary lifesaving support and services during the 2020 hurricane season. Significant challenges in carrying out the critical, lifesaving mission during the COVID-19 epidemic threatened mission delivery. The Southern Region employed collaborative virtual strategies combined with operational safety protocols, and while working under difficult conditions, employees of the region provided critical, lifesaving information that saved countless lives.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Jonathan Wolf
Linda Eldridge
Rufus Washington
Allison Elgin

Office of the Chief Financial Officer
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
*   Administration*

Marc Tolson
Marissa Ramos
Brian Cox
Cameron Shelton
Stefan Leeb

Office of the Chief Information Officer
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
*   Administration*

Mathew Grow

National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
*   Administration*

The group is honored for successfully engineering, coordinating, implementing, and supporting a modern Commerce Business Systems Information Technology infrastructure, including SuperCluster computing, networking, storage, security, and backup capabilities in a new data center. As a result, more than 1,200 users at the Department and throughout the Federal Government can more quickly and reliably access and process critical business information in support of their mission.

SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Joelle Gore
Rebecca Smyth
Laura Petes
Elaine Vaudreuil

National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
*   Administration*

The NOAA team is honored for implementing the National Coastal Resilience Fund, an ambitious and innovative partnership program with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In its first 3 years, the program funded projects in 32 states and territories with 146 grants totaling more than $140 million. The program successfully advanced nature-based approaches that protect habitat and make communities more resilient. This year, NOAA worked to broaden the program's scope to better address community needs, and added the Environmental Protection Agency as a partner.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Sergey Vinogradov
Liujuan Tang
Gregory Seroka
Georgios Britzolakis
Edward Myers

National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

The group is honored for developing and transitioning to operations the Global ESTOFS (Extratropical Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System) water level guidance system. The group consolidated the existing Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico, Pacific, and Micronesia ESTOFS models into a single system, improved the grid resolution in those regions, expanded globally, and added new high-resolution areas in the Pacific Ocean. These major advances allow the global system to be run more efficiently with better maintenance, and the single system allows it to be more easily coupled with other NOAA models in the Unified Forecast System.

SILVER MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Weather Forecast Office Columbia, SC
Weather Forecast Office Charleston, SC
Weather Forecast Office Greenville-
** Spartanburg, SC**

National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
* Administration*

The offices are honored for providing life-saving warnings during the historic tornado outbreak of April 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to staff. The employees met the chalenges by improvising and adapting their operations to maintain the highest level of service possible. By maintaining situational awareness at the most difficult time of the day – the overnight hours – the office was able to issue accurate and timely warnings that allowed residents to take cover. The staff overcame the challenges of COVID-19 and the time of day, and saved lives.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

SILVER MEDAL

HEROISM

Amy Fritz

*National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
    Administration*

Ms. Fritz is honored for her selfless actions in saving the life of a child in distress due to a rip current. She used her scientific expertise to assess the situation and coupled it with her safety training and heroic nature to rescue the child and avoid a fatality.

SILVER MEDAL

HEROISM

Megan Shapiro

*Office of Marine and Aviation Operations
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
    Administration*

Ms. Shapiro is honored for her extraordinary efforts to provide urgent medical care for a 75-year-old man who had a heart attack on a boat. She responded quickly to the emergency and skillfully assessed the scene, delegating actions to others to assist in her response while she immediately began conducting cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Ms. Shapiro instructed a family member to give rescue breaths, and had the wherewithal to limit her own potential exposure to COVID-19 while still practicing Good Samaritan laws. Her actions directly prevented tragedy from striking a family by saving the man's life.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

GOLD MEDAL

ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Chris Mattingly
Gary Patrick
Gabe Gersten
Paul Ransom
Chad Muhlenbruck
Byron Barker
Nickolas LaSorte
Ed Drocella

Office of Spectrum Management
National Telecommunications and
*   Information Administration*

The group is honored for conducting spectrum analysis, systems research, and legal/regulatory review to evaluate complex proposals requesting billions of dollars to free up spectrum for 5G. The group's findings provided critical feedback to a fast-tracked DOD repurposing proposal, resulting in a 25% ($4 billion) savings and final approval. Also approved were redirection recommendations for a Federal Aviation Administration proposal on addressing different spectrum. These improved proposals will facilitate spectrum auctions, which provide tens of billions of dollars for the U.S. Treasury, and maintain the U.S. lead in the race for 5G.

GOLD MEDAL

HEROISM

Karlin Younger

First Responder Network Authority
National Telecommunications and
*   Information Administration*

We honor Ms. Younger for locating an improvised explosive device (IED) hidden near the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021. Ms. Younger alerted emergency personnel, who determined the IED to be viable and successfully evacuated the area. Her actions led to the discovery of another IED, a vehicle of cached weapons, and the successful neutralization of all three threats with no casualties or damage. Ms. Younger did not ignore the risk, nor assume it was someone else's responsibility, but took action to protect her community. Her actions undoubtedly saved countless lives and reduced the destruction to our Nation's Capital.

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Cara Westholm
Tony Kesslak
Lisle Hannah
Zachary Schwartz
Garrett J. Pollman
Nicholas M. Schnare
Olivia J. Bradley

Office of the Chief Financial Officer and
*   Assistant Secretary for Administration*
Office of the Secretary

Nick Kornegay
John Guenther
Beth Leech

Office of the General Counsel
Office of the Secretary

The nominees are honored for supporting the successful transition to a COVID-adapted Department of Commerce workforce with minimal disruptions by creating facility policies and a COVID-19 Rapid Response Platform (COVID platform). The policies facilitated an employee-driven, geographic, and bureau- specific approach to quickly transition to employee-majority telework, with protocols to protect mission-essential personnel at facilities. The COVID platform used state of the art analytics techniques, epidemiological modeling, and open data sources to monitor current and projected COVID-19 trends.

SILVER MEDAL

ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nicholas Schnare
Carla Smith
Mary Barrick

Office of the Chief Financial Officer and
*   Assistant Secretary for Administration*
Office of the Secretary

Kenneth Ford
Eric Cline
Jerome Nash

Office of the Chief Information Officer
Office of the Secretary

The group is recognized for their distinguished performance in establishing a Continuity of Operations (COOP) facility. They developed facility, security, and information technology requirements and led the space design. They secured funding, provided project management, and oversaw the construction, tenant fit out, and operational capability of the facility. The COOP facility now stands ready to support Commerce leadership during national emergencies and continuity events to ensure command and control and continuation of executive branch essential functions.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Rey De Jesus

Office of the Chief Information Officer
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Wendy Garber
Laura Grier
William Kelleher
James Kramer
Elizabeth Magargel
Karlheinz Skowronek
Gregory Tryder
David Wiley
Kevin Young

Office of the Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

The group is honored for creating and implementing revolutionary policies and systems that replaced outdated processes used for 40+ years in order to more effectively pair examiners with incoming applications. They used a first-of-its-kind automatic algorithm, provided shared examiner–manager accountability in improving timeliness and quality of patent examination, and enhanced stakeholder interactions. The group established a clear road map for improving clarity, prior art search, and bolstered compact prosecution to enrich the reliability and predictability of stakeholders' intellectual property (IP) rights and infuse greater confidence into the IP ecosystem.

GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Christian A. Hannon
Nicholas A. Pairolero
Andrew A. Toole

Office of Policy and International Affairs
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Kakali Chaki
Jesse P. Frumkin
Anne Homescu
David B. Orange
Christyann Pulliam
Matthew W. Such

Office of the Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

The group is honored for distinguished scientific achievement by advancing the state of the art for identifying emerging technologies contained in U.S. patent documents. The group's "ML algorithm" performs substantially better than traditional query-based methods. Applied to the field of artificial intelligence (AI), the ML algorithm revealed wide diffusion of AI across technologies, inventors, organizations, and geographies in the United States since 1976. The group's achievement is being imitated by other IP offices and organizations around the world, and is poised to become the standard method in the field.

SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Stephan Batt
Kristin Fuller

Office of the Chief Financial Officer
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Abigail Nawrocki

Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Jack Bowles
Dan Byrd
John Lau
Ian Neil
Bob Simms
Deborah Stephens

Office of the Chief Information Officer
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

The group is being honored for exceptional effort through a multipronged cost-savings campaign that looked at the potential for annual storage cost savings via contract negotiations, and the right sizing of system storage previously allocated and planned. The group worked tirelessly over the last year to see this contract modification and award come to fruition. Strong negotiations, increased awareness, transparency, and steadfast collaboration resulted in substantial annual savings:
2020 = $7,939,925;
2021 = $8,347,719;
2022 = $12,602,284.

RON BROWN
EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION AWARD

Dr. Ellen M. Voorhees

Information Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. Voorhees led the design and implementation of the NIST TREC COVID Challenge, an evaluation challenge for information retrieval that provided unprecedented capability in accurately retrieving reliable, contemporaneous information for the global fight against the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. The resulting search technology developed from the TREC COVID Challenge under Dr. Voorhees's leadership was quickly deployed by researchers worldwide to improve search technology in the fight against the ongoing pandemic.

Within days after the White House call to action to the artificial intelligence (AI) community in response to the COVID-19 virus, Dr. Voorhees built a coalition with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Allen Institute for AI, Kaggle, and two universities. Dr. Voorhees designed and led the TREC COVID Challenge to evaluate information retrieval (IR) technologies on scientific literature, leading five evaluation challenge cycles from April–July 2020. Each successive cycle measured progress and provided feedback to improve system development for the next cycle. Participation in TREC COVID grew to 92 unique teams, including Google and Microsoft, and 556 algorithms were created and tested.

Dr. Voorhees proposed to enhance COVID Open Research Dataset (CORD19), a large set of scientific papers on virology CORD, into a "test collection," with search queries and ground truth relevance judgments indicating which papers should be retrieved for each query. The test collection would enable measurements to drive the research, giving birth to the NIST TREC COVID Challenge. Typically, the creation of a test collection can take up to a year, but this challenge demanded a faster outcome. Dr. Voorhees designed a process with multiple cycles that incorporated relevance feedback, so that developed algorithms could learn and improve at each stage. Dr. Voorhees mobilized the TREC community to rapidly iterate on the data. This combination of iterative learning with a strong research community that understands search technology and the subject domain produced a large, reusable resource in record time.

Dr. Voorhees produced the blueprint for IR evaluations' methods, and built trust in information returned by search engines in support of fighting COVID and other pandemics—a lasting resource for biomedical research. Her critical work and remarkable achievement have directly contributed to the acceleration of lifesaving research in the fight against COVID-19.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS