

**Mentoring and Development of Government Statisticians:
Experiences as a Senior Government Statistician and Parent**

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Employees of official statistics offices enter the workforce with varied academic backgrounds, knowledge of statistics and surveys, and of government operations. In order to be effective in their job they need to hone their skills to include oral and written communication, initiative and leadership, customer service, analytical thinking, adapting to and managing change, in addition to the technical competencies that they may have brought to the workplace. This paper discusses training, mentoring, and career development opportunities that three official statistics agencies – the U.S. National Agricultural Statistics Service, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the U.K. Office for National Statistics – have engaged in to develop these skills in their staff. Information on both formal and informal programs will be discussed as well as evaluation of the programs. Application of these concepts will be made to parenting high school, college-age, and adult children.

Key words: career development, government statistics, workplace training