

Steven Dillingham '73
2019 Alumni Professional Achievement Award

The Alumni Professional Achievement Award recognizes significant contributions alumni have made to their fields while exemplifying high moral and professional ethics.

Steven Dillingham '73 is being honored with the 2019 Alumni Professional Achievement Award for his outstanding accomplishments in the federal government.

Dillingham earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Winthrop in 1973, as the institution became fully co-educational. He also received his Juris Doctor, Master of Public Administration and Ph.D. in political science from the University of South Carolina, and completed his Master of Business Administration at George Washington University and Master of Laws at Georgetown University.

Dillingham became the 25th Census Bureau director on January 7, 2019, following appointment by the president and unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Dillingham has more than 25 years of statistical, research, senior management and legal experience in the federal government.

Previously, he served as director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Both of these agencies support national surveys in partnership with the Census Bureau. In his capacity as director, he has been tasked with overseeing the implementation of the 2020 Census, which will count every person living in the United States on April 1, 2020.

Before joining the Census Bureau, Dillingham served as director of the Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning. Other federal service includes directing research and planning for the Department of Justice Trustee Program, and directing surveys for the Office of Personnel Management.

He was a career member of the Federal Senior Executive Service. In addition, Dillingham was the deputy director for the National District Attorneys Association and administrator of the American Prosecutors Research Institute. Dillingham has served on the faculties of the University of South Carolina and George Mason University. He is a senior certified professional with the Society for Human Resource Management.

Dillingham, who currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia, with wife Kimberly and daughter Abigail, has local ties; he was born in Orangeburg, and his parents are from Rock Hill. He attended the U.S. Air Force Academy from 1970-72.