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Group Focuses on Upcoming Census Count

Dr. Kenneth L. Stewart, Angelo State University professor of sociology, will serve as chairman for the Complete Count Committee for Tom Green County and the City of San Angelo.

Formed by San Angelo area civic and government leaders, the group's aims include helping ensure that all residents are counted in the 2010 census, increasing awareness of the count's importance, identifying difficult-to-count areas and helping recruit personnel for Census Bureau operations.

"The importance of including all of the people in the 2010 census count is hard to overstate," Stewart said. "For one thing, over \$300 billion per year in federal funding to states and localities is affected by the baseline census counts every 10 years."

The count is used to determine funding for highways, hospitals, cultural support and welfare benefits. Population totals are used to allot political representation in the U.S. Congress and the Texas Legislature, and counts also help form local decision-makers' plans.

Community Development Initiatives program directors Stewart and Dr. Casey Jones of the ASU Government Department collaborated with the Census Bureau to create the committee.

Besides Stewart and Jones, members of the committee are Cathy Ballard, Concho Valley Workforce Development Board director of planning; Mike Brown, Tom Green County judge; Floyd Crider, Galilee Community Development Corporation president; Tom Early, San Angelo Health Foundation president; Dr. William Fuller, ASU assistant professor of psychology and social work; Scot Goen, Region XV Education Service Center executive director; and Johnny Griffin, Concho Valley Workforce Development Board executive director.

Also, Paul Howard, ASU Small Business Development Center business development specialist; Shawn Lewis, City of San Angelo director of planning and development services; Marcos Mata, Concho Valley Council of Governments regional services coordinator; Phil Neighbors, San Angelo Chamber of Commerce president; Bob Salas, City of San Angelo director of community development; and Staci Wetz, Shannon Medical Center controller.

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