Dear Members of the Campus Community,

Every ten years the Census Bureau undergoes a massive effort to count every person living in the United States. This month more than 130 million households across the country will receive their 2010 Census forms by mail or hand delivery. Our faculty and staff members will be receiving their census forms at their home addresses. Each student living on campus will receive a census form in his/her campus mailbox on April 7. Students living off-campus will receive one form per household and it will be sent directly to the house.

The Census Bureau’s goal is to count everyone once and in the right place. They are focusing attention on college students because this group has been, in the past, a difficult one to count. The Census Bureau has been working closely with the College to be sure that students are counted where they live most of the time. As a result, students should file their forms in Gettysburg rather than at home. Census representatives will staff tables in the CUB April 7 through 16 from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. where students living on campus should return their completed forms. Students living off-campus should return the form in the U.S. mail envelope provided.

We are urging other members of our community to return their forms by mail in the postage-paid return envelope provided. Censuses workers will visit households that do not return forms to take the count in person. About $85 million is saved for every one percent increase in mail participation. During Census 2000, the mail participation rate was 72 percent. This year the Census Bureau has initiated a “Take10” challenge to encourage everyone to return their census forms by mail.

To encourage everyone to return their forms, the Census Bureau has created a website that allows everyone to track and compare their community’s 2010 Census mail-back participation rates with other communities at http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/.

**Here’s what you should know about the 2010 Census:**

**It’s easy.** The 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete.

**It’s important.** Census data are used to reapportion seats in Congress and ensure proper district representation in state and local governments. Information from the census helps determine locations for child-care and senior centers, new roads, hospitals, schools, and community centers. Census data affect how more than $400 billion in federal funding is distributed to state and local governments.

**It’s safe.** By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents’ answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

Thanks for your help in making the 2010 census accurate and cost efficient. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janet Morgan Riggs
President