

**Meet the Fed: Episode 3 – Promoting Data Strategy in the Office of the Chief Data Officer
Federal Reserve Board**

KATHERINE TOM. I'm Katherine Tom. I'm the Chief Data Officer at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. I report to our Chief Operating Officer directly. My job focus is on data life-cycle management and data governance to enable better data analysis. We use data to drive our policy decisions, drive our business decisions and to support the Board to achieve our mission successfully and our policy decisions really impact our economy therefore it has a direct impact to American peoples' lives. My job is a little bit more behind the scenes in terms of supporting our mission through the data and technology work. We're almost like the back office of the Federal Reserve Board.

And if you think about data these days to our economy and to our financial system it's almost like the blood in a human circulation system. So, it's critical that we understand it well, that we manage it well, that we can draw meaningful information so that we can make data driven policy decisions. We look at all different data to make our decisions and our policies. Naturally we definitely look at the macro-economic data, GDPs, inflation, unemployment, etcetera. We are also looking at more micro level data and the industry performances. We're also zooming into the banking, the financial institution data that helps us to understand how our economy impacts peoples' lives as well.

One thing I learned actually from my past experience and my past life is that we go from one generation technology to the next generation practically every year. So, it's super important that we keep that learning momentum going. I came from an organization that's not in the spotlight all the time. And at the Board you hear the Federal Reserve Board mentioned in the news 20 times a day. And so, you know what you do have a great impact to the American people and to our economy, which makes that pressure is pretty high or you want to do a good

job, we want to make sure we do the right job. I'm proud that I'm part of the organization, that I'm making an impact and that part is exciting, we never get bored. Whenever we can solve a problem, I always get a thrill out of it that's the great part about working here.