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GeoTECH
GEOTECHCENTER.ORG

Innovation in Geospatial Science and Technology Education *Empowering Colleges: Expanding the Geospatial Workforce*

In this issue:

Contact Information

Vince DiNoto:
vince.dinoto@kctcs.edu
502-213-7280

Rodney Jackson:
rodney_jackson@davidsonccc.edu
336-224-4544

Ann Johnson:
ann@baremt.com
208-894-4541

Rich Schultz:
r.schultz@snhu.edu
312-231-8779

Ken Yanow:
kyanow@swccd.edu
619-421-6700, ext. 5720

The GeoTech Center website is:
http://www.geotechcenter.org

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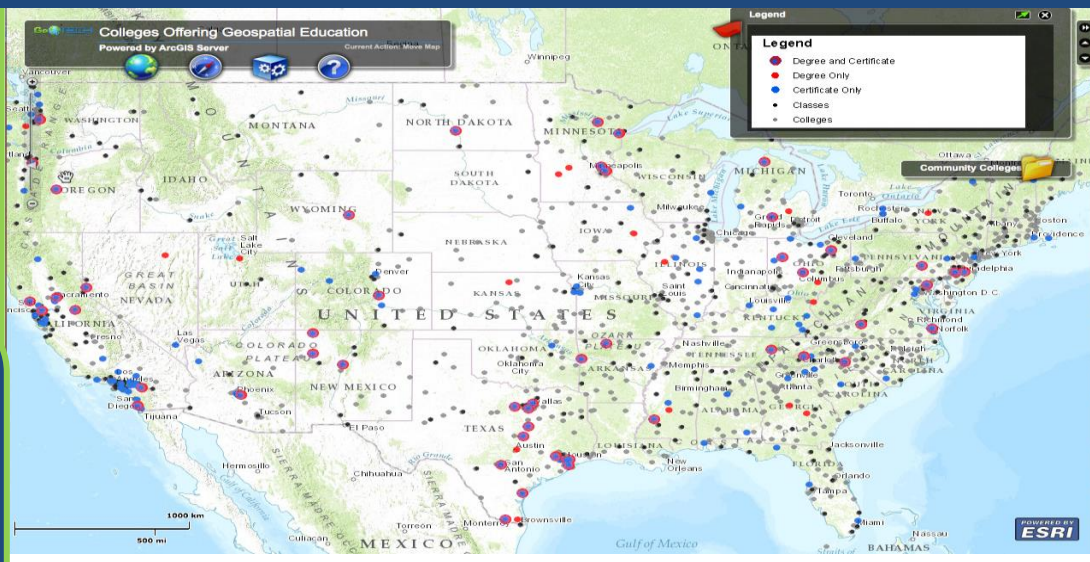
The GeoTech Center is virtual, comprised of a Director, four Associate Directors, and nine Assistant Directors from institutions across the nation. The central office is located at Jefferson Community and Technical College in Louisville, KY.

Jefferson Community & Tech College
1000 Community College Drive
Louisville, KY 40272
(502) 213-GEOT
GeoTech@kctcs.edu



GeoEd'15

The GeoEd'15 conference and workshops were held in June at Jefferson Community and Technical College on the Southwest Campus in Louisville, KY. The conference featured a series of half day workshop on multiple subjects including, Python, Collector, ArcGIS Pro, the GeoTech Center, Geospatial Awareness Course, and Pictometry software.

On the afternoon of the second day a Geospatial Educator Forum was held. This was the first time that this networking forum was conducted and had educators from across the country discussing common issues.

The conference component was held on the third day with many outstanding speakers featuring Bill Hodge CEO of GISCI discussing the forthcoming exam for the GISP and Keith Masbach, CEO of USGIF discussing GeoINT. Along with these two keynotes many additional outstanding presentations were delivered. During the conference the GeoTech Center Annual Awards were presented.

A post conference workshop on UAV/UAS was held on the fourth day that was filled to capacity. During the workshop the participants tried their luck at flight in the auditorium and learned about the regulations associated with flight of unmanned vehicles from Michael Hauk, CEO of ASPRS.

Other items included in the workshop, was the looking at projects done by students and potential UAS/UAV curriculum. The day concluded with a hands-on laboratory exercises on georeferencing and stitching of images.

GeoEd'16 will be held in June of 2016 and dates will be forthcoming.

Pictured from left to right: Dr. Michael Hauck (Executive Director of ASPRS), Bill Hodge (Executive Director of GISCI), Dr. Vince DiNoto (Director, GeoTech Center), Keith Masback (CEO of USGIF)

To download the GeoEd '15 presentations, please visit:

http://www.geotechcenter.org/geoed-15.html

Or contact Vince Dinoto at:
(vince.dinoto@kctcs.edu)

Changes for Future GISP Applicants

After July 1, 2015, anyone can start the application process at any time, either via the exam or portfolio review.

In response to requests from GISPs and the geospatial community, GISCI will offer the GISCI Geospatial Core Technical Knowledge Exam to individuals independent of the application for the portfolio review process. This means that GISP applicants after July 1, 2015 can start the certification process by completing an application and taking the examination any time prior to attaining the professional experience required for the professional portfolio. All applicants will be required to fulfill all certification process requirements within 6 years from the date of their initial application to be awarded a GISP certification. A key benefit of this change in policy is that students and others new to geospatial professions will have the opportunity to begin the certification process and take the exam whenever they believe they are prepared, rather than having to wait until they have completed all of the requirements of the peer reviewed portfolio.

After July 1, 2015 the certification process will include a $ 100 application fee, a $ 250 exam fee, and a $ 100 portfolio review fee. Upon completion of the certification process, an individual will be certified for a 3-year period. Annual renewal fees of $ 95 are due on the anniversary of initial certification and will be required to be paid in full prior to recertification. Recertification of the GISP will be required at the end of the 3-year period with a procedure similar to the current review process where submission of information on completed continuing education and service to the profession is required.

Until July 1, 2015, GISCI will continue to accept GISP applications under its current process and fee structure.

Changes for Current GISP Professionals

All current professionals holding GISP certification with a recertification date after July 1, 2015 will recertify for a 3 year period, and will pay an annual renewal fee of $95 for each of the three years of the new recertification period. The portfolio points for continuing education and service to the profession required for the 3-year recertification will be reduced proportionately from the current 5 year requirements.

All professionals certified or recertified before July 1, 2015 will remain certified under the current 5-year recertification policy and fees until the next certification expiration date and then will begin the 3-year renewal and recertification process.

Contact

Bill Hodge GISP, Executive Director GISCI, bhodge@gisci.org
www.gisci.org

GIS Certification Institute

Upcoming Webinar

How Can Geospatial "Big Data" Help Disaster Response and Track Disease Outbreaks? Transform Innovative Geospatial Technology to Solve Real World Problems, August 19, 2015, 2-3 pm (EST)

http://snhu.adobeconnect.com/GeoTechCenterWebinars

Ming-Hsiang (Ming) Tsou, San Diego State University (SDSU)

Geospatial Big Data (GBD) provide untapped potential for discovering and analyzing dynamic human problems, including disease outbreaks, traffic jams, urban dynamics, and environmental changes. Such data offer golden opportunities for GIS scientists and professionals to develop new tools, new methods, and new theories. We can utilize Geospatial Big Data to transform innovative geospatial technology into practical software solutions or computational models for solving real world problems (such as epidemics, disaster response and recovery, health disparities in cancer and obesity, drug abuse, urban crime rates, etc.). We, as GIS professionals, should integrate spatial science (GIS and GPS technologies), mobile technologies (smart phone and mobile apps), and big data (social media, mobile phone records, and web pages) and build a new transformative research agenda for future geospatial education and trainings.

The term 'big data' usually refers to large stores of information accessible to secondary analyses. Such data have the potential to translate into big ideas, big impacts, and big value for our society. GIS and spatiotemporal analysis methods are essential tools for processing, filtering, analyzing, and visualizing big data.

This webinar will discuss the impacts of big data and social media from a geospatial technology perspective and introduce a few software solutions and examples for disease outbreak surveillance and disaster response/assistance. Two web applications developed by the Center of Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age (HDMA) (http://humandynamics.sdsu.edu/research.html) at SDSU will be introduced to demonstrate the value of geospatial big data. The web-based Social Media Analytics and Research Testbed (SMART) dashboard can provide real-time surveillance and trend analysis for various topics. SMART dashboard can be used to track multiple themes with various keywords, including disease outbreaks, drug abuse, regional wildfires in Southern California (URL: http://vision.sdsu.edu/hdma/smart). The Geo-targeted Event Observation (GEO) Viewer is a Web-based mapping application which enable users to track real-time messages, pictures, and locations from GPS-tagged social media messages (Twitter) for disaster response and assistance efforts (http://humandynamics.sdsu.edu/NepalEarthquake.html).

In addition to the technology development of geospatial big data, we also need to identify the risk and research challenges associated with big data in terms of privacy, data security, and unequal access. The education scope of geospatial big data should include the trainings to educate researchers about these risks in geospatial big data and potential problems during the collection and analysis of big data from social media, electronic health records, or mobile sensor devices.