



A Monthly Newsletter of the
National Geospatial Technology
Center of Excellence

Innovation in Geospatial Science and Technology Education

Empowering Colleges: Expanding the Geospatial Workforce

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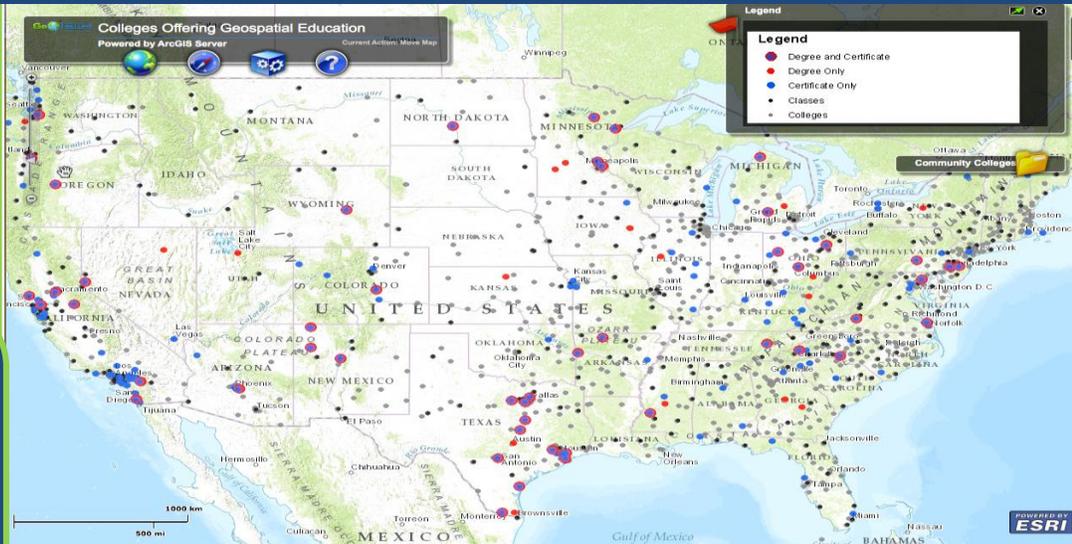
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The GeoTech Center is virtual, comprised of a Director, four Associate Directors, and nine Assistant Directors from institutions across the nation. The central office is located at Jefferson Community and Technical College in Louisville, KY.

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GTCM Update

The GTCM

The Geospatial Technology Competency Model (GTCM) framework was developed through a collaborative effort involving the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), the GeoTech Center, and industry experts.

Over the course of 2013-2014, the GeoTech Center and industry Subject Matter Experts (SME's) updated the model with guidance from the ETA to reflect the knowledge and skills needed by today's geospatial technology professionals. For information on the changes from the previous version on the model, download the [Summary of Changes](#).

The nine month long process looked at more than 300 competencies for the geospatial industry comprising five different Tiers. Each Tier was reviewed by more than 200 subject matter experts (SME's) from the geospatial community.

The recommendations of the SME's were reviewed by the GeoTech Center's National Visiting Committee and National Advisory Council. The revisions have been posted on the Department of Labor's website at: <http://www.careeronestop.org/competency-model/competency-models/geospatial-technology.aspx> and linked on the GeoTech Center website: <http://geotechcenter.org>.

No changes occurred in Tier 1: Personal Effectiveness Competencies.

Minor changes were made in Tier 2: Academic Competencies and in Tier 3: Workplace Competencies. Most of the changes occurred in Tier 4: Industry-Wide Technical Competencies and Tier 5: Industry-Sector Technical Competencies.

Bill Hodge, Executive Director of GISCI: "GISCI considers the GTCM an important part and an indication of a healthy, maturing geospatial profession. The GeoTech Center has made an invaluable contribution to our industry by producing and getting it approved through DOLETA, and their taking the reins for a successful update is even more significant. Alongside the GIS&T Body of Knowledge, the GTCM constitutes the consolidation of the best practices and delineation of the skills, competencies, and knowledge a successful professional requires in our field. Their contribution in this area cannot be overstated!"

Vince DiNoto, Director of the GeoTech Center: "The GTCM 2014 is a major accomplishment for the geospatial community since this gives an updated picture of this rapidly changing field. GTCM 2014, will provide a road map to assist academic institutions and employers with a clear understanding of workforce needs. To have more than 200 professionals examine each competency is truly remarkable. The use of a scientific method to analyze the variations in the responses to each competency and the utilization of our advisors to clarify these suggested changes has led to the creation of an excellent tool for the geospatial field."

ATE Conference 2014

The American Association of Community Colleges with the support of the [National Science Foundation](#) held the 21st National ATE Principal Investigators Conference at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC from October 22-24, 2014. The conference brought together approximately 850 people to focus on the critical issues related to advanced technological education. Key people working on ATE projects across the country participate in the conference. Conference attendees represent community colleges, business and industry, secondary school systems, four-year colleges, and research and development centers covering projects in a wide variety of areas such as: information technology, engineering technology, micro- and nanotechnologies, chemical technology, biotechnology, and others.

The Keynote Speaker

The Keynote Speaker for the Opening Day of the conference was Keith J. Masback, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the 501©(3) not-for-profit United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF). As CEO, he represents over 230 member companies, organizations, and academic institutions and is responsible for carrying out the Foundation's mission of promoting the geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) tradecraft and developing a GEOINT Community among government, industry, academic, professional organizations and individuals whose mission focus is the development and application of geospatial intelligence to address national security objectives. He has served as a member of the Intelligence Task Force of the Defense Science Board and is currently a member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing.

In his keynote address, Mr. Masback spoke extensively about the power of "geospatial" in our daily life as well as the pervasive nature of "geospatial" across the discipline spectrum.

The GeoTech Center Workshop

At the conference, the GeoTech Center lead the following workshop and discussion session: *Outreach and Strategies for Broadening Impact of Geospatial Technologies – Spatial Awareness, Model Courses, and Big Data*. The session introduced attendees to the GeoTech Center process of creating "gold standard" competency-based model course curricula that ultimately could be applied to any industry. We also shared information on some novel opportunities to combine geospatial technology and big data science (social media data, human dynamics, and citizen science).

The session was well attended, and the discussion was lively (especially with regards to how one teaches technology dependent coursework with limited resources).

For a copy of our PowerPoint presentation, please feel free to contact Rich Schultz at r.schultz@snhu.edu.

Breakfast Roundtable

Breakfast roundtables at the ATE Conference are opportunities for program representatives with similar interests and/or outcomes to discuss relevant topics.

This year the GeoTech Center hosted a roundtable to disseminate and discuss the Geospatial Technology Competency Model (GTCM). The roundtable was extremely well attended, with standing room only. For additional information regarding the GTCM, please see the "GTCM Update" article on Page 1 of this newsletter.

