NYS GIS Association Education Committee Meeting Minutes
25 February 2014 | 1:30 – 2:27 p.m. | Conference Call

Attendees: Eileen Allen, Ann Deakin, Mike Jabot, Jon Little, Lisa Matthies-Wiza, Andy Mendola, Rich Quodomine, Dave Stern

1. Revitalizing/Expanding Community College Geospatial Programs. This is the topic of a webinar we would like to offer with the GeoTech Center in August. Jon Little will broach the subject with Vince DiNoto during his meeting with him tomorrow. Below are related discussion points.
    a. Jon Little shared his work with Vince DiNoto at the GeoTech Center as he and his department chair, Dan Robinson, work on an NSF ATE Program proposal through Mentor-Connect. (www.teachingtechnicians.org)
        i. They are proposing a dual-enrollment program focused on geospatial technology between Rochester area high schools and Monroe Community College. The goal is to place these students in industry. This program would include a certificate program in GIS at MCC.
        ii. MCC currently offers an introduction to GIS course (Digital Earth), a remote sensing course and a business GIS course. They plan to add an advanced GIS course and a cartography course.
        iii. From a state government perspective, Rich suggested coursework in Python scripting and databases.
        iv. The deadline for the proposal is in August 2014. He is currently working to flesh out the industry connection.

    b. Lisa Matthies-Wiza brought the group up to date on what is happening at Erie Community College (ECC). While the GIS courses will be retained, the certificate program, which started in 1997, will be deactivated. The enrollment in the courses is very strong, but students do not follow through with the certificate because it requires they leave their degree program. They can't complete a certificate and a degree at the same time.
        i. Jon and Lisa will be sharing their respective experiences and keeping the group apprised.

    c. Dave Stern of Nassau Community College was curious how ECC and MCC were handling the SUNY Transfer Pathways initiative. From his perspective, he could significantly hurt applied science courses like GIS. Students wanting to transfer will focus just on those courses that are included in the "pathway" for that program.
        i. We will follow up on this topic next month. It's possible this is an issue we may want to pursue through contact with those on our higher ed list.
        ii. Eileen and Ann observed that few students arrive at Plattsburgh or Fredonia with any GIS courses in hand and the expectation that they will complete more.

   iii. Rich pointed out that this may be a way to work the GTCM into the framework. Ann will follow up with Alex to see if he was able to talk to Tom Mueller regarding how we might be able to contribute to the GTCM revision.

2. GIS and the Common Core Standards. Ann will follow up with Alex to see if there's anything we might do to support the NYGA's efforts.
  a. Mike noted that the NCGE (National Council on Geographic Education) has mapped the National Geography Standards (Geography for Life) to the Common Core. That may be the most for which we can hope.
  b. Mike has found that State Ed is open to the NYS Esri K-12 license as an opportunity that can be used to facilitate the Common Core Standards.

3. Ann announced that Andy will be presenting a webinar targeted to educators on Pictometry OnLine and Pictometry imagery on March 11 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The description is complete. Ann will follow up with Andy regarding the registration details. Please spread the word.

4. NYS Esri K-12 Site License.
  a. Ann will follow up with Jim regarding his ideas.
  b. Mike and Ann agreed that there are some concerns as to how ArcGIS Online plays into the licensing. Will the licensing be based more on AGO organizational accounts rather than ArcGIS Desktop?

5. Action Items:
  a. Alex will liaise with NYGA to see how we might support their efforts regarding the Common Core Standards.
  b. Alex will ask Tom Mueller about the possibility of the Association contributing to the update of the GTCM.
  c. Ann will circulate the minutes.
  d. Ann or Andy will set up a Doodle poll for the March meeting.