

NYS GIS Association Education Committee Meeting Minutes

28 August 2013 | 10:30 – 11:22 a.m. | Conference Call

Attendees: Eileen Allen, Ann Deakin, Mike Jabot, Lisa Matthies-Wiza, Susan Nixon, Rich Quodomine, Dave Stern

1. The Committee officially welcomed Lisa Matthies-Wiza of Erie County Environment & Planning and Erie Community College to its ranks.
2. **NY GeoCon2013.**
 - Sue reported that a number of excellent abstracts had been submitted.
 - Eileen was thanked for pulling together the abstracts for the proposed Educator Professional Development session.
 - Rich reported that he had been in touch with Chris Renschler of UB regarding their participation. They have submitted approximately 4 abstracts, including a student lightening talk. UB is very interested in the sustaining academic institution membership and would like to know if that might include any perks for the conference, including a break-out room. Ann noted that space was at a premium.
 - Sue reported that Cindy Sherwood was in the process of adding a reference to poster abstract submission to the conference website.
 - Sue will follow up on Rich's question regarding a professional development presentation over lunch.
 - Rich brought up Mickey Dietrich's Geospatial Institute, which will have a presence at the conference.
 - Sue asked the group to forward her the names of professionals to participate in the speed networking session.
3. **NCGE (National Council on Geography Education) Conference in Denver (8/1 – 4/2013)**
 - Mike reported on the annual NCGE conference, which both he and Susan H. attended. He said it was fantastic and is looking forward to next year's conference. There was a noted focus on ArcGIS Online and connecting Geography for Life, the 2nd edition of the National Geography Standards (www.ncge.org/geography-for-life) to Next Generation Science Standards (www.nextgenscience.org).
 - Mike and Suesan H. will both be sharing geospatial education at the New York State Fair in Syracuse.
4. **Google's Geo for Higher Education Summit in Mountain View, CA (7/22 – 24/2013)**
 - Eileen reported on the Google Summit she and Alex attended. She said it was a wonderful experience. It is hard to believe that Google dates only to 2005 and Google Earth to 2007. They learned about all their new developments, including beta versions, petabytes of data (1000!) and Photo Sphere ("Immersive 360° views"). They worked with forms/templates on

smart phones that could be used to populate cloud-based spreadsheets that could then be mapped. She also related that there is a Google Earth Pro License available for educators.

5. **Sam Wear's eSpatially New York blog: espatiallynewyork.com/author/sam-wear@gmail.com/**

- Ann reported that Sam Wear of Westchester County GIS will be posting an upcoming article on GIS higher education at SUNY and CUNY schools. He is also starting to gather information for an article on "Off the Grid" – stories about very small GIS efforts, programs, people, etc. in NYS who are doing something with very little. Please let Ann know if you are aware of such efforts so she can pass them on to Sam.

6. **Alan Leidner's request for validated ROI numbers**

- Ann shared Alan Leidner's request for thoughts on how to go about generating a solid cost benefit analysis to calculate ROI for GIS. He thought the Education committee might have some thoughts on professors/students at our respective institutions that might be up to the task. Ann will check with Dr. Peter Reinelt, the Chair of the Economics Department here at SUNY Fredonia. There was a general concern about the quality of such an analysis with student involvement.

7. **Community College Update**

- Ann chatted with Vince DiNoto of the GeoTech Center, which is now located at Jefferson Community and Technical College in Louisville, Kentucky. Below are some of the points that came from that conversation.
 - i. The decline of geospatial programs at community colleges is a recognized problem nationally and one the GeoTech Center is in the process of addressing.
 - ii. Thus far, they have observed that it is difficult to sustain a stand-alone program. The places, at least anecdotally, that seem to be successful are those where GIS is taught within another department without necessarily having an Associate's degree or Certificate program. Vince sees the need to sell GIS as an enabling technology for existing programs.
 - iii. Incorporating GIScience & Technology into the STEM disciplines is vital.
 - iv. The GeoTech Center is currently working with the Department of Labor to update the GTCM (Geospatial Technology Competency Model) by the end of the 2013-2014 academic year.
 - v. They are also working on curriculum materials, including case studies, geographically neutral modules and geospatial concept videos.
 - vi. They see real value in sharing specialized courses across campuses. Unfortunately, paying for these courses across state lines will be increasingly problematic as financial aid/student loans becomes more bureaucratic/politicized.
 - vii. The GeoTech Center is also considering to what extent the needs of the community are actually being met.

- viii. They are starting a mentoring program for community colleges that want to add a geospatial component or want to revive one. The mentor would be provided at no cost to the college. While the program is not formalized yet, Vince is happy to be in contact with any college wanting a mentor sooner rather than later.
 - ix. The GeoTech Center has a national calendar in which we can participate, and we are encouraged to participate in Spatial Plexus 2013 in early November (11/4 – 6/2013) in Atlanta and their workshop in Louisville next June.
 - x. Vince mentioned that he had had some very fruitful discussions with Alex on pedagogical issues.
 - xi. The GeoTech Center would be happy to send a speaker to New York State. Vince actually has a family tie in the Albany area.
- Dave brought up the issue of seamless transfer across SUNY schools, which could further muddy the waters.
 - Lisa is meeting with folks at ECC to discuss the future of GIS there.

8. Outstanding Action Items from 27 March 2013 Meeting:

- Ann will start an e-mail discussion of Alan Leidner's suggestion for NYS GIS internships.

9. Outstanding Action Items from 24 April 2013 Meeting:

- Ann will write a brief RFP for organizations conducting NYS summer camps for students with a geospatial component.
- Eileen will follow up on the balloon kits.

10. Outstanding Actions Items from 29 May 2013 Meeting

- Ann will also go through the higher ed list of contacts to make sure all SUNY community colleges offering at least a geospatial technology course are included. *In Progress.*

11. Outstanding Action Items from 26 June 2013 Meeting

- ~~Ann will contact Tom Mueller once his affiliation with the GeoTech Center is formally announced. This contact is to learn more about what the Education Committee might do to foster the growth of GIS at Community Colleges in NYS. Done. Ann spoke with Vince DiNoto.~~

12. Outstanding Action Items from 23 July 2013 Meeting

- **All:** Get out the word to our student and educator colleagues that they should attend NYGeoCon 2013. *Ongoing.*
- ~~Ann: Send a targeted e-mail in early August to the NYS Higher Ed list of contacts regarding the advantages to faculty and students to attending and participating in NYGeoCon 2013.~~
- **Ann:** Send a follow-up e-mail in early September once classes have started.
- ~~Ann: E-mail members tentatively presented in the Educator Professional Development session. Sue N. and Eileen took care of this.~~
- ~~Sue N. & Ann: Coordinate with Lindi Quackenbush (Conference Committee) on Career Panel/Speed "Dating" Session. Done.~~

- ~~Sue N.:~~ Coordinate with Lindi Quackenbush on timing of Lightning Talks. **Done.** Lindi recommends it as a session rather than lunch “entertainment.”
- ~~Susan H. & Mike:~~ Provide update on NCGE Conference at August meeting. **Done.**

13. Action Items from 28 August 2013 Meeting

- ~~Ann~~ will send out a Doodle poll for September’s meeting in hopes of including Andy Mendola of Pictometry. *Done.*
- **Ann** will contact Dr. Reinelt to see whether it would be feasible to have students with a faculty mentor conduct a cost benefit analysis.
- **All:** Please forward suggestions of professionals to Sue N. for participation in the speed networking session.
- Outstanding Action Items from 3/27/13, 4/24/13, 5/29/13, 6/26/13, and 7/23/13 meetings.