

NYS GIS Association Education Committee Meeting Minutes

14 January 2014 | 10:30 – 11:20 a.m. | Conference Call

Attendees: Eileen Allen, Alexander Chaucer, Ann Deakin, Lisa Matthies-Wiza, Andrew Mendola, Richard Quodomine

1. Congratulations to Alex Chaucer, recipient of a grant from The Pollination Project. In addition to the digital GeoBadges program, which was funded by the grant, he is also working on a Community Geography program.
2. Discussion of the Education Committees plans for 2014:
 - a. Ann shared Mickey Dietrich's ideas on GIS and the Common Core Standards. Listed below are some of the responses.
 - i. Rich pointed out that while the Common Core Standards are national, it's the states the implement them. Perhaps GIS could be used to achieve the standards.
 - ii. Andy pointed out that teacher evaluations are tied to test scores, so there would need to be ample evidence that GIS could help achieve higher test scores. Teachers are already overburdened, and, as Andy point out, they have fewer and fewer opportunities for "teachable moments."
 - iii. Eileen suggested that perhaps the 4-H model could be used to bring learning opportunities to students. She recommended rewording this "idea" on the Update document: *Explore ways to facilitate the implementation of the Common Core Standards with GIS.*
 - iv. Alex noted that the NYGA (New York Geographic Alliance) is already working on developing content for the Common Core Standards through the ELA & Social Studies components. Indeed, they are working on a module focused on the Erie Canal. Since Alex is on the NYGA Board, he will talk to them about how the Education Committee might support their efforts.
 - v. Eileen will be reaching out to the Master Teacher Program at SUNY Plattsburgh to see what opportunities there may be for geospatial technology.
 - b. Rich suggested the Education Committee should provide input to the GTCM (Geospatial Technology Competency Model) update. The update will involve the GeoTech Center and the GISCI (GIS Certification Institute). Rich thought Abu Badruddin of Cayuga Community College would be a good resource. Alex will be talking to Tom Mueller, who is associated with the GeoTech Center, and will ask him how the NYS GIS Association might contribute to the updated GTCM.
 - c. Lisa recommended some edits to the sustaining academic institution flyer. Ann will make those changes and send the flyer out to the higher education list. Depending on the response to the flyer, the group will follow up with personal outreach.
 - d. Ann and Alex recommended re-energizing the NYS Esri K-12 license effort. Ann is hoping to post more content to the web page. Alex thought the group should be reconvened and add new

people who would be willing to be more proactive. Jim is going to circulate his ideas to the group.

- e. Lisa would like to continue the effort to revitalize Community College programs. Rich shared the work that Scott Jeffrey of UMBC has done to heighten awareness of geospatial technology among high school students. Rich will circulate Scott's white paper. There was interest in a webinar presented by the GeoTech Center to address this issue.

3. Ann will circulate the minutes and solicit other ideas for the Education Committee to consider for 2014.

4. 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 e-mail the sustaining academic institution flyer to the higher ed list.
- d. Ann will circulate the minutes and solicit ideas for 2014.
- e. Ann or Andy will set up a Doodle poll for the February meeting.