

NYS GIS Association Education Committee 2010 Work Plan
18 January 2010

Abstract

The Education Committee will be shifting its focus for 2010 in an effort to meet the needs of NYS GIS users faced with increasingly constrained budgets. Training is a consistent request made by the NYSGISA membership. The Education Committee would like the NYSGISA to provide that training in the form of an annual webinar. Much as the NYS Office for CSCIC used to provide half-day sessions that traveled about NYS training users in various facets of GIS, the NYSGISA Education Committee sees an opportunity to provide a similar service without the travel costs. The Education Committee also sees short and long term opportunities for more NYSGISA engagement in the classroom at all levels, on GIS Day, through continuing education, and the general proliferation of GIS in the mainstream.

Introduction & Background

Given the current economic constraints that most members and prospective members of NYSGISA are facing, the Education Committee seeks to shift its focus for the coming year. While the establishment of a temporary task force to define the potential for SUNY (the State University of New York) to become the GIS education and training center of the U.S. may continue to be a long term goal (see below), in the short term, the Committee’s focus must be on providing cost-effective GIS training for its membership and fostering GIS knowledge in NYS beyond the Association’s membership.

The Education Committee’s goal for 2007 – 2008 was “to create an organizational capacity within NYSGISA that can introduce emerging geospatial information technologies and current best practices in various academic, research and application domains.” According to its objectives for 2007 – 2008, the Education Committee sought to define activities intended to contribute to an increase in understanding of geospatial information technology and their applications. An annual work program detailing specific activities and intended measurable outcomes has been desired since the Committee’s inception. The Committee also stated support for the continuance of the Galileo Awards and the NYS GIS Coordination Program Education Work Group.

More recently, the Education Committee, under the leadership of Bob Brower, wrote to SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher on 3 September 2009 to pursue “the application of [geospatial] information technology and the potential preeminence of SUNY on the national geospatial training stage.” To that end, he envisioned a GIT Task Force, as mentioned above, with membership from a variety of SUNY institutions and NYS agencies. Indeed, he has already solicited the support of a number of prominent individuals from these institutions and agencies.

Goals, Actions & Estimated Timeframe

	Goals	Actions	Estimated Timeframe
1	Institute an annual webinar to provide education to various segments of the NYSGISA community.	<p>1st webinar topic tentatively on Open Source GIS. Target audience: local governments, universities, K-12, and others interested in GIS on a limited budget.</p> <p>Collaborate with New England Chapter of URISA (contact: Paul Samara) and other GIS groups to provide compensation for high quality presenters. Compensation would be for both preparation and presentation.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Present 1st webinar by 31 Jan 2011.</p>

		Future topics might include: Navigating the ArcGIS 9.4 shift to Microsoft Office's Ribbon interface; GIS and its Return on Investment.	Ongoing.
2	Provide guidance for potential GIS users on a limited budget regarding the long term utility of Open Source GIS as a viable option.	Engage Charlie Schweik of the OSGeo Education and Curriculum Project in a conversation regarding the potential for Open Source GIS in the long term. Tentatively, he will be invited to our March conference call.	Tentatively invite to March Ed Comm mtg
3	Develop a standard set of education materials.	Collaborate with the Marketing Committee.	Ongoing; 1 st distribution of materials in time for use on GIS Day 2010.
4	Participate more actively in GIS Day with a particular focus on outreach to schools.	Collaborate with the Marketing and Regional Coordination Committees. Coordinate with ESRI; contact Paul Rooney and/or Lisa Andrews.	Ongoing. GIS Day 2010 (11/17/2010)
5	Establish a framework for connecting teachers at all levels to professionals in GIS in an effort to encourage students to be interested in GIS careers at an early age and to be more confidently prepared to enter the profession.	Recruit a member from the K-12 GIS community. Update Galileo Award Poster Competition on NYSGISA website in time for winners to be displayed at 26 th Annual NYS GIS Conference. Recruit GIS users in the educational community to present their work at the Annual Conference.	2/2010 Ed Comm mtg March 2010 Ongoing.
6	Create a SUNY GIT Task Force that would pursue the goals outlined in the aforementioned letter to Chancellor Zimpher.	Recruit Bob Brower to join the Education Committee	2/2010 Ed Comm mtg; Ongoing.
7	Encourage members to pursue continuing education in GIS.	Collaborate with the Marketing Committee to increase the number of GISP or ASPRS certified professionals in NYS through educating members as to the benefits and how to achieve certification.	Ongoing.

8	Invigorate and maintain commitment on the part of the Education Committee	<p>Teleconference</p> <p>In-person meetings</p> <p>E-mail</p>	<p>Monthly with the exception of May and October</p> <p>At the Summit & the Annual Conference</p> <p>As needed to supplement meetings</p>
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