GISCI Update

Presented by:
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Bill Hodge, Executive Director of GISCI
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What is GISCI?

- The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) is a tax-exempt not-for-profit organization 501(c)(6) professional association, business league
- Provides a voluntary GIS certification program for professionals
- Added value to the profession
- Established GISCI Board of Directors in 2003 and began offering certification in 2004.

GISCI is nearing 10 years of service!
Historic Relationship between URISA and GISCI

- URISA Journal in 1993: Nancy Obermeyer
  - “Certifying GIS Professionals: Challenges & Alternatives”
- URISA Survey late 1990s: members want certification
- URISA 1997: Certification Committee
  - Stalled because couldn’t agree on examination
- URISA 2001: No exam
  - Voluntary, self-documentated, independently verified, tiered, point-based system
  - Two review periods for URISA members
- 2004: GISCI created outside of URISA
  - multilateral
  - no legal liability
URISA Certification Committee Members
1998 - 2003

- Nancy Obermeyer
  Chair 1998 - 2001
- William Huxhold
  Chair 2001 - 2003
- Robert Aangeenburg
- Heather Annulis
- Robert Barr
- William Bowdy
- Judy Boyd
- Al Butler
- Tim Case
- Roger Chamard
- Will Craig
- David DiBiase
- Peirce Eichelberger
- Joseph Ferreira
- Keith Fournier
- Steven French
- Cyndi Gaudet
- Josh Greenfield
- Ann Johnson
- Karen Kemp
- Jury Konga
- Joel Morrison
- Sherman Payne
- Michael Renslow
- Warren Roberts
- Mark Salling
- Joe Sewash
- Rebecca Somers
- Curt Sumner
- Geney Terry
- Eugene Turner
- Barry Waite
- Lynda Wayne
- Suzanne Wechsler
- Elaine Whitehead
- Lyna Wiggins
- Thomas Wikle
“People become GISP as a way of declaring their membership in the GIS profession. They are also declaring their obligations to each other, their employers, and society to behave in an ethical manner. Every GISP must be an advocate for the profession.”

-Al Butler, GISCI News Release, January 2009
GISCI Member Organizations

- URISA (2004)
- AAG (2004)
- NSGIC (2004)
- UCGIS (2005)
- GITA (2010)
State Endorsements for GISCI

MAGIP encourages its membership to achieve GIS certification which...

- Oregon (2005)
- New Jersey (2007)
- Ohio (2008)
- California (2008)
- Montana (2009)

- Allows its members to be recognized by their colleagues and peers for having demonstrated exemplary professional practice and integrity in the field;
- Establishes and maintains high standards of both professional practice and ethical conduct;
- Encourages aspiring GIS professionals to work towards certification for the purpose of professional development and advancement;
- Encourages established GIS professionals to continue to hone their professional skills and ethical performance even as GIS technology changes.

In Process – Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin...
Current GISCI Board of Directors appointed by Member Organizations

- Michael Vanhook, GISP
  President, Alabama, NSGIC
- Becky Shumate, GISP
  Vice President, Texas, GITA
- Jeremy Mennis
  Secretary, Penn., UCGIS
- Jean McKendry
  Treasurer, DC, AAG
- Eric Bohard, GISP
  Oregon, URISA
- David Brotzman, GISP
  Vermont, NSGIC
- Dr. James Wilson
  Virginia, UCGIS
- Martin Roche, GISP
  Florida, URISA
- Talbot Brooks, GISP
  Mississippi, GITA
Committees

• Certification Committee
• Review Committee
• Outreach Committee
• Ethics Committee
There are over 5000 certified GISP's.

Membership is Growing:
In the last five years, membership increased by 49%. Membership in Saudi Arabia increased by 42% and membership in the United Kingdom doubled.

GISP Membership
5,024 GISP Members Worldwide in 35 Countries

Looking Forward:
Based on the average annual rate of membership increase, there may be 689 new members in 2012, totaling 5,713 members worldwide.

Projected Membership, 2012

Membership Facts:
530 memberships expire in 2012 including 10.7% of members in the United States and 8.5% of members in Canada.
Code of Ethics

• **Obligation to Society**
  – Best work possible
  – Contribute to the community
  – Speak out about issues

• **Obligations to Employers**
  – Quality work
  – Professional relationship
  – Honesty in representation

• **Obligations to Colleagues and the Profession**
  – Respect work of others
  – Contribute to the discipline

• **Obligation to Individuals in Society**
  – Respect privacy
  – Respect individuals
Terminology

Certification
- a voluntary evaluation and acknowledgment of skills in a profession

Licensure
- a legal regulation, requiring competency in a practice

Accreditation
- Process of evaluating training materials or standards of program in accordance with pre-established criteria

GISP
- Certification that provides recognition of a GIS Professional by peer review examination

Certification and licensure are two different amicable methods recognizing skills and practice.
GISP Certification

- Voluntary
- For GIS Professionals (any specialist)
- Self-documented, point-based system
- Peer review examination
- Recognition of achievement
- Self regulation
Why Should YOU Certify?

- Recognition program for established GIS professionals.
- Means of identification used by licensed or certified professionals
- Code of ethics identifies bad practices and upholds good practices.
- Professional development yardstick
- In 2006, The Salary found a $12k differential between the salaries of GISP's and non-GISP's for comparable positions.
- 85% of employers were supportive
Why Should the GIS Industry Certify?

• Added value to the profession
• Ensure a core competency of ethics, experience, education and contributions
• Provide recognition of achievement in the GIS industry and market
• Support employment and business needs
• Support educational development for current/prospective GIS professionals
• Encourage long-term professional development
Certification Requirements

- **Education**
  Basis of knowledge

- **Experience**
  4 years experience

- **Contribution to the Profession**
  Ongoing professional development

- **Additional Points (Flexible)**

Total Point Requirement = 150
Simple Example Profile

• **Education** (30 points)
  Bachelor’s Degree in any field (20)
  and 3 GIS related college courses
  or 40 CEUs
  or 100 days event attendance

• **Experience** (60 points)
  4 years FTE experience

• **Contribution to the Profession** (8)
  Participate and get involved in leadership, memberships, publications, events.
  8 yrs of membership, 4 yrs on committee, 2yrs on a board

+ 52 Additional points
Recertification

• Every 5 years
• Need 40 points total based on:
  1. Course and Conference
     • Minimum of 10 points
  2. Contributions to the Profession
     • Minimum of 10 points
  3. Work Experience
     • GISP’s only need to complete this section if they cannot obtain enough points in the areas of Education/Conference points and Contributions points to meet the minimum 40 point requirement for renewal.
Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has worked with industry and education leaders to develop a comprehensive competency model for Geospatial Technology. The model is designed to evolve along with changing skill requirements.

The industry model frameworks are based on the competency model building blocks which are modified to meet the industry needs.

GTCM endorsed by GISCI, 2011
http://www.gisci.org/PDFs/GTCM.pdf

GMCM approved August 20, 2012
http://www.urisa.org/gmcm
Standards of the Profession

• Body of Knowledge
  Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIS&T)
  – Task Analysis / Model Curricula / Definitions

• DACUM (Developing A Curriculum)
  Geospatial Technology Competency Model (GTCM)
  Geospatial Management Competency Model (GMCM)
  – Experience based
  – Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)

• Other standards of GIS specialization...
Evaluating the Profession

“the purpose of GISP certification is to advance the GIS profession by promoting competent and ethical professional practice. Portfolio-based certification made sense in 2004, when no authoritative specification of geospatial competencies yet existed. The Department of Labor’s recently issued Geospatial Technology Competency Model helps fill that gap, and sets the stage for serious consideration of competency-based GISP certification.” Dave DiBiase, GISCI President – July 8 2010

Core Competency Working Group –
GISP Certification Update Proposal January 28, 2011
Key among the proposed updates is the addition of a required examination.

Public comment – February 2011

Exam Working Group (EWG) – October 2011
Project Manager + Exam Consultant + Subject Mater Experts
Exam Development Plan – January 2013
Exam Development Process

Exam is coming!
The Foundation of the GISP

GISP CERTIFICATION

Ethics  Education  Experience  Contributions  Examination
Examination

• Planned implementation of Exam in 2015
• Grandfathering provision expired on December 31, 2008
  — Eligible to be “grandfathered” based on experience
  — During the last week of the year alone, more than 700 applications were submitted for review
  — Significantly ahead of all previous cohorts
Coming Online Soon

New GISCI website including:
- online applications and renewals.
Developing the Profession

Looking into the future...

• Continue to adopt and develop standards
• Serving specialized professionals and GISP designations
• Certification throughout the full career
• Exam preparation materials
• Revised renewal process toward annual contact and updates
• International programs
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