Join with AAG to Support Geography Education

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION developed by the Association of American Geographers (AAG) proposes the advancement of geography education with three major recommendations. This resolution has been endorsed by U.S. Secretaries of State and Defense, many governors, major national organizations and corporations, and dozens of state geographic alliances and other groups. See reverse side for a partial listing of these endorsers. We strongly urge adoption of the key goals of this resolution.

AAG Resolution Supporting K–12 Geography Education

WHEREAS, Congress is scheduled to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as “No Child Left Behind,” for the first time in almost a decade;

WHEREAS, geography is one of ten “core academic subjects” identified in the ESEA for which specific funding allocations and implementing programs are proposed to further its teaching at the K-12 level;

WHEREAS, geography education is central to preparing students to be informed citizens of the United States and economically competitive in a rapidly globalizing world;

WHEREAS, geotechnologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), GPS, photogrammetry, surveying, mapping, and remote sensing, have been identified by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the three most important emerging and evolving fields, with job opportunities growing and diversifying rapidly, creating substantial workforce growth as these technologies prove their value in ever more areas;

WHEREAS, employers in all sectors, including private companies, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have indicated that there is a pressing need for more students graduating today with the geographic science and geospatial skills needed to support a rapidly growing field;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS:

Urges the Obama Administration to include geography and geospatial education in its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and ESEA Blueprint for Reform proposals;

Urges Congress to include authorizations and appropriations for geography education consistent with other core academic subjects for K-12, as part of a reauthorized ESEA; and

Urges Congress to enhance geography teacher training by passing legislation such as the Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act.

“During my time as Secretary of State, I witnessed firsthand how important it was that Americans understood geography and the world around them. Since then, as countries have become even more interconnected, that need has grown. As a result, I support the efforts by the AAG to promote geography education in our schools, and I encourage the White House and Congress to do the same.”

—James A. Baker III
U.S. Secretary of State

“Geography played a leading role in nearly every policy decision I was involved in as Secretary of State. Young Americans with an understanding of peoples, places, and cultures have a clear advantage in today’s rapidly-changing global economy and I am encouraged that the AAG is working with Congress and the Administration to build support for geography education at the K-12 level.”

—Madeleine Albright
U.S. Secretary of State

Turn Page to See Who Has Endorsed the AAG Resolution to Support Geography Education
The AAG Resolution Supporting Geography Education has been endorsed or adopted by the following:
(Partial List)

### U.S. Secretaries of State
The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright
Secretary of State, 1997-2001
The Honorable James A. Baker III
Secretary of State, 1989-1992
The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State, 1973-1977
The Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State, 1982-1989

### U.S. Secretaries of Defense
The Honorable William S. Cohen
Secretary of Defense, 1997-2001
The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense, 2006-2011

### Senior Government Officials
The Honorable Haley Barbour
Governor of Mississippi, 2004-2012
The Honorable Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico, 2003-2011; also, former U.S. Ambassador to UN and former U.S. Secretary of Energy
The Honorable Timothy E. Wirth
former U.S. Senator; current President of UN Foundation & Better World Fund
General Charles F. Wald, USAF, Ret.
Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn, USN, Ret.
Vice Admiral Robert Murrett, USN, Ret.

### Leading Environmental Organizations
American Council on Renewable Energy: ACORE is dedicated to building a secure and prosperous America with clean, renewable energy.
Environmental Defense Fund: With a membership of over 700,000, EDF’s mission is to preserve the natural systems on which all life depends.
The Jane Goodall Institute: JGI is a global leader in chimpanzee behavioral research and protection, community-based conservation, and youth service.
National Council for Science and the Environment: NCSE works to improve the scientific basis for environmental decisionmaking.
U.S. Green Building Council: USGBC promotes sustainability in how buildings are designed, built, and operated.

### Governors
Governor Robert Bentley, Alabama
Governor Sam Brownback, Kansas
Governor Phil Bryant, Mississippi
Governor Lincoln Chafee, Rhode Island
Governor Mark Dayton, Minnesota
Governor Mary Fallin, Oklahoma
Governor Benigno Fitial, Northern Mariana Islands
Governor Gary Herbert, Utah
Governor Paul LePage, Maine
Governor Martin O’Malley, Maryland
Governor Pat Quinn, Illinois
Governor Rick Scott, Florida
Governor Peter Shumlin, Vermont
Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, West Virginia

### Major Private-Sector Supporters
AOL Inc.
Boeing Company
CMS Energy
Esri, Inc.
General Motors Company
Google, Inc.
Lockheed Martin
Microsoft Corporation
National Grid Corporation
Nissan North America
Nokia Inc.
Public Service Enterprise Group
Raytheon Company
SAIC
Southwest Airlines Co.
Sprint Nextel Corporation
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
Verizon Communications Inc.

### National Organizations
American Congress on Surveying and Mapping: ACSM members include over 5,000 surveyors, cartographers, geodesists, and related professionals.
American Geographical Society: AGI members work to support the need for geography.
American Geosciences Institute: AGI is a federation of geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 120,000 earth scientists.
American Meteorological Society: AMS promotes the development and dissemination of information and education on atmospheric and related sciences.
American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing: ASPRS members are professionals in geospatial technologies.
Association of American Geographers: The AAG is a scientific, research, and educational organization comprised of more than 10,000 members from colleges and universities, the private sector, and government agencies.
Cartography and Geographic Information Society: CaGIS members design, implement, and use cartography, GIS, and related technologies.
Coalition of Geospatial Organizations: Consists of 12 national geographic technology organizations.
Geographic Information Systems Certification Institute: GISCI has certified over 4,000 GIS Professionals.
Geospatial Information and Technology Association: GITA represents public and private utilities and telecom companies.
International Association of Assessing Officers: The IAAO’s 8,000 members include government assessment officials.
Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors: MAPPS is a national association of firms in the surveying, spatial data, and GIS fields.
National Association of State Boards of Education: Founded in 1958, NASBE represents state and territorial boards of education.
National Council for Geographic Education: NCGE represents educators committed to enhancing the quality of geography teaching and learning.
National Geographic Society: One of the largest non-profit scientific and educational institutions in the world, NGS has been inspiring people to care about the planet since 1888.
National States Geographic Information Council: NSGIC members are GIS coordinators and managers from the U.S. states and territories.
United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation: USGIF members use geospatial intelligence to protect the U.S.
University Consortium for Geographic Information Science: UCGIS represents 70 universities involved in GIS research and education.
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association: URISA promotes the effective management of urban and regional systems.