

# GeoMentors

AAG esri Community Newsletter

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Current  
GeoMentor  
Count:  
**1,083**



Current  
School  
Count:  
**2,990**



## Questions?

Contact program  
staff at

April 2016

[www.geomentors.net](http://www.geomentors.net)

Vol. 2, No. 4

Spring has sprung and our GeoMentors continue to volunteer with K-12 schools and educators, developing ongoing collaborations and starting new ones across the country! Needing inspiration to get involved? Check out our monthly challenge and resources below and be sure to browse our [online case study collection](#) to see what GeoMentors are up to (more to be added soon)! Have questions? Reach us at [geomentors@aag.org](mailto:geomentors@aag.org).

## Monthly Mentor Challenge

The GeoMentors community is just that, a community. We have so many wonderful volunteers in our midst, take some time to meet your colleagues and maybe even start an outreach collaboration with them! This month we challenge you to:

### Contact and introduce yourself to a fellow GeoMentor in your area

Use our GeoMentors [online map](#) (tab #4) or [online database](#) to find GeoMentors near you. Let us know who you meet!

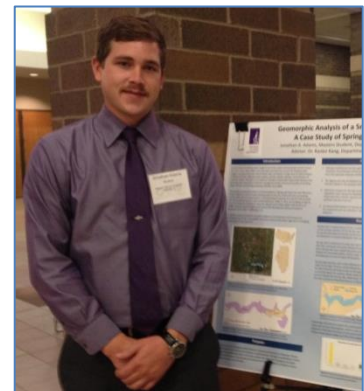
## GeoMentor Spotlight

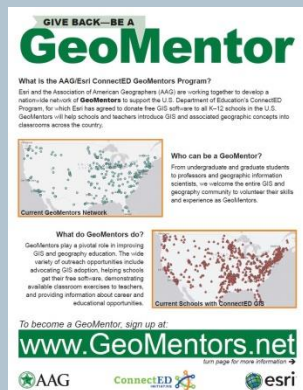
*Each month we feature a GeoMentor volunteer to showcase the wonderful talent available in our community to assist K-12 schools.*

**Name:** John Adams

**Position/Affiliation:** Graduate Student, Department of Geography, Western Illinois University

**What was your favorite class in K-12?** My favorite classes in school were social studies and the science classes such as earth science and physics. I loved learning about different places in the world, the earth processes that occurred at various places all over the





Share [this flyer](#) with your geo-friends and colleagues to help grow our GeoMentors community!

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Share your GeoMentor experience as a [case study](#) and receive the

world, and the science behind those processes.

**How did you first learn about and/or use GIS?** I first learned and used GIS in my first year of college at Western Illinois University. GIS is a major tool that many of the professors used and thus was placed in the curriculum from the start. I found it gratifying to create my own maps and display data in a visual way to make it more understandable.

**Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography.**

One thing I love about GIS/Geography is the way that everything in the world has a spatial component, and being able to identify and understand the spatial relationships is very important to understanding many natural and social phenomena.

**Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor?**

I volunteered as a GeoMentor to reach out and teach younger students the importance of GIS and spatial thinking. GIS has various applications in many fields, and introducing students to these can potentially spark their interest in one of them. The GeoMentor Program is also a huge part of the WIU Student Society of Geography's mission to promote interest and awareness of the discipline of geography.



**If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence?** Understanding geography and GIS not only allows you to answer questions about where things happen but goes one step further to allow you to answer why things happen where they do.

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Read previous GeoMentor Spotlights [here](#). Want to be featured? Go [here](#) for more information. We want to learn about you!

## Upcoming Events: NCGE Webinar and UCGIS Symposium

**April 27<sup>th</sup>:** The NCGE is offering a free webinar on April 27<sup>th</sup> on [GeoInquiries for Human Geography and US History Teachers](#). Presenters Tom Baker (Esri) and Chris Bunin (HS and community college educator) will show how GeoInquiries can be incorporated into classrooms to introduce GIS to students. Tell your K-12 educator friends about the webinar! [Register online](#) in advance.



## Newsletter Archive



Check out previous issues in our [archive!](#)

## Get your Certificate!

Tell us about your activities and receive an official [certificate of participation!](#)



**May 24th – 26th:** The [UCGIS Symposium](#) will be held in Scottsdale, AZ. On Wednesday, May 25th, organizers will have a 1:30pm session on Implementing Service Learning in Geoinformation Technology Courses during which the GeoMentors program will be discussed. If you're attending UCGIS, consider attending this session and telling fellow attendees about how they can help improve K-12 geography and GIS education by being a GeoMentor!



## Featured Resource: Mentoring for GeoLiteracy



We were honored to have Dr. Joseph Kerski among our GeoMentor panel of superstars (see the photo below) at the recent AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco. During this session, Dr. Kerski [shared a great presentation](#) about mentoring, including examples of GeoMentoring, mapping projects, and tips for engaging educators and students. The presentation also includes tons of links to more material that may be useful to GeoMentors and teachers alike! Thanks, Dr. K!



Panelists at the AAG 2016 Annual Meeting GeoMentors session included (l to r): David DiBiase (Esri), Dr. Joseph Kerski (Esri), Dr. Sarah Bednarz (AAG; Texas A&M), Jack Dangermond (Esri), and Dr. Candice Luebbering (AAG)

## GeoMentors in the News!

A team of GeoMentors in Wilkes-Barre, PA caught the attention of the local news! They are working with a local high school to bring GIS into the classroom and discuss career opportunities with students. Read more about it [here](#).



Questions? Contact us at [geomentors@aag.org](mailto:geomentors@aag.org)  
[www.geomentors.net](http://www.geomentors.net)