

# GeoMentors

AAG esri Community Newsletter

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Current  
GeoMentor  
Count:  
509



Current  
School  
Count:  
1816



August 2015

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

Vol. 1, No. 3

Hello GeoMentors! We hope you have enjoyed some summer fun and now that the new school year is approaching, you are gearing up for some GeoMentor engagement opportunities. Check out below for our new monthly mentor challenge and GeoMentor spotlight as well as information and inspiration for your involvement in our community. If you aren't sure how to get started, check out this [blog post](#). If you are one of our veteran GeoMentors from before our new 2015 program efforts, please consider re-registering [here](#) if you haven't already done so. Our community is 500+ members strong and growing!

## Monthly Mentor Challenge

Our GeoMentor registrations are really growing (150+ new GeoMentors since the last newsletter!), but we want to make sure we aren't just building numbers, we're building a community. So, for this month, we challenge you to:

**Join, follow, or like at least ONE of the GeoMentors online communities or social media accounts**

Meet fellow participants, communicate with program staff, get program announcements, and share your experiences, resources, and ideas with this wonderful, growing community!

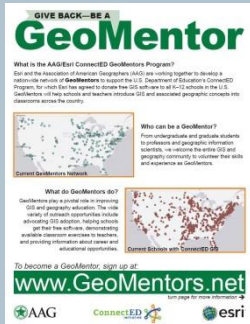
- **Join** the [GeoMentors GeoNet Group](#) and/or the [GeoMentors Knowledge Community](#)
- **Follow** [@AAGGeoMentors](#) on Twitter
- **Like** [AAG GeoMentors](#) on Facebook

## GeoMentor Spotlight

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

**Name:** Joseph Becker

**Position/Affiliation:** Advisor/Advocate for [GIS Scholars](#)



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

## Report your GeoMentor Activities!

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



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

**What was your favorite class in K-12?** My favorite course was History – it took me to different times and places.



**How did you first learn about and/or use GIS?** I first learned about GIS as a Transportation Planner in the late 70's. I was part of a team that developed a mainframe carpool and transit matching program in response to Iran's Oil Embargo. The environment was very different from today with lots of paper maps, punch cards, Letraset and colored pencils!!

**Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography:** Having grown up in city neighborhoods, I loved that it could take me places I had never been.

**What kind of GeoMentor volunteer opportunity and experience are you looking for?** I want to continue to help the GIS Scholars grow, but I also want to network with other individuals and organizations across the country that want to advance geospatial learning in urban school districts.

**If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence?** If you don't know where you are, it will be very difficult to know where you are going.

**Email address:** [becker126@yahoo.com](mailto:becker126@yahoo.com)

*Interested in being featured? Go [here](#) for more information. We are excited to learn more about you!*

## Share your stories, Report your Efforts!

We want to hear about the great work you are doing as a valuable member of our GeoMentor community. Whether you have already helped a teacher or have just started to reach out to a school, we would love to hear about your in progress and/or completed activities.

We want to encourage and acknowledge your efforts, but it is also

## GeoMentor Highlights from the 2015 Esri UC



GeoMentor program featured in the [UC Showcase Showdown](#)



Above: Esri's Charlie Fitzpatrick discusses the GeoMentor program at the EdUC



**very important** that we document, track, and assess our program efforts to make sure we are making the best impact possible to increase and improve GIS use in K-12 education across the country. Please take a moment to reach out to us and let us know how things are going through any of the methods below:

1. **Email us.** Send us a quick note to [geomentors@aag.org](mailto:geomentors@aag.org) to let us know what you are up to or what you hope to do in the future so we can help you in any way possible!
2. **Online Reporting Form.** Use this [online form](#) to report your completed or in progress activities (there is room for up to three different activities in case you are one of our super active GMs with multiple engagements planned!).
3. **Social Media.** Shout out to us through social media via Twitter [@AAGGeoMentors](#) or the [AAG GeoMentors Facebook page](#) as to your current or future GeoMentor activities!

Don't forget that we can provide you a [program certificate](#) for your service records once you report your activities to us. We also plan to develop a map of GeoMentor activities to showcase the geography of our community's efforts!

## Featured Resource

Needing some inspiration to fuel your GeoMentoring efforts? Check out the "[Mentoring the Next Generation](#)" video clip from the Plenary Session at this year's Esri User Conference held in San Diego in late July.



The session featured the amazing work of two high school students (sisters!) from Hawaii using GIS to address invasive species issues on the island of Molokai. Our newly re-energized GeoMentors program and website are also mentioned!

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