Welcome to all of our newly registered GeoMentors (hi GISPs!) and hello again to our 2015 veterans! It’s a new year focusing on the same mission: to help increase and improve geography and GIS in K-12 education across the country! Our community continues to grow as does our impact on the educational community, so let’s keep it up! Read below for our monthly challenge, GeoMentor spotlight, and Featured Resources. Questions? We’re just an email away at geomentors@aag.org!

**Monthly Mentor Challenge**

Given the thousands of K-12 schools in the US, the work to spread the word about the GeoMentors program and the availability of free ArcGIS Online accounts for schools is never done. To help with this monumental task, this month we challenge you to:

**Share our educator-focused **[flyer](#)** with at least ONE K-12 teacher or school!**

Maybe you have a friend who is a teacher, a child enrolled in K-12, or live near a school in your community. Take a moment to email this flyer to a K-12 contact and mention your role as a GeoMentor. This small gesture could lead to a rewarding educational experience for all parties involved; it could lead to a new group of students learning about GIS for the first time!

**GeoMentor Spotlight**

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

**Name:** Brian King

**Position(s)/Affiliation(s):** GIS Analyst V / Archeologist at Freece and Nichols, Inc. (Austin, TX); Vice President URISA Texas
What was your favorite class in K-12?  History

How did you first learn about and/or use GIS? I started using GIS while working in Cultural Resource Management. I used ArcGIS to depict archeological site boundaries and the location of shovel tests and backhoe trench excavations across the site.

Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography. A GIS allows people to spatially organize large datasets, visually view complex issues, and ask questions that lead to wise decision making.

Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor? Most people have no idea what is a GIS and do not realize how embedded it is in our daily lives. Introducing K-12 students to geography and GIS will change how they view the world and provide them with valuable skills that can be utilized once they enter the working world.

If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence? People who study GIS and geography are in a better position to ask analytical questions and make rational decision on topics that impact the earth (i.e. flooding, crime analysis, population distribution, predictive models).

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Read Brian’s full spotlight here. Interested in being featured? Go here for more information. We are excited to learn about you!

Featured Resource

Building upon the GeoInquiry collection that includes Earth Science and US History exercises, Esri now also offers 15 Human Geography GeoInquiries (for a high school audience). GeoInquiries are designed to be fast and easy-to-use instructional resources that incorporate advanced web mapping technology. Each 15-minute activity in a collection is intended to be presented by the instructor from a single computer/projector classroom arrangement. No installation, fees, or logins are necessary to use these materials and software.
Designed for high school classrooms, the Human Geography GeoInquiries cover topics including: globalization, migration, language, religion, demography, agriculture, and development. GeoInquiries are a great way to quickly introduce geospatial technology into a classroom and generate interest in further use!

If you have curriculum resources you would like to suggest for this feature or to share with fellow GeoMentors in general, please share them with us at geomentors@aag.org.

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GeoMentor Photo Gallery

Here are some photos from GeoMentor activities in 2015! Each is linked to a case study so you can learn more about and be inspired by the variety of GeoMentor experiences taking place! Check out our full 2015 Case Study collection here.

Questions? Contact program staff at geomentors@aag.org