

NCGE Workshop Promotes Career Readiness for Geography Students

Despite rapidly evolving and expanding employment opportunities, many students are unfamiliar with the numerous career paths for which a degree in geography can prepare them. To support educators in advising their students about the array of employment options available to geographers, the AAG's EDGE (Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education in Geography) project recently sponsored a workshop entitled "Preparing Geography Students for the 21st-Century Workforce" at the 2012 National Conference on Geographic Education in San Marcos, Texas.

The workshop facilitators – Joy Adams (AAG), Niem Tu Huynh (AAG), and Joseph Kerski (Esri) – introduced three classroom activities designed to raise students' awareness of employment prospects and to help them recognize and articulate the value of their geography training to potential employers. The participants then engaged in small-group discussions to brainstorm ideas about how each exercise could be adapted to

the specific needs of students at their grade level and institution type. Eighteen geographers participated, including middle school, high school, and university faculty; one homeschooling parent; and professional geographers working in the private sector. Their feedback has been used to revise and enhance the sample classroom activities, which will be made available for download from the Jobs & Careers area of the AAG website (www.aag.org/careers). "It was refreshing to know that

the comments and thoughts expressed by workshop participants would actually be useful and assimilated into ongoing geography projects and tools," observed one attendee.

Workshop materials included the recently published book *Practicing Geography: Careers for Enhancing Society and the Environment* (Pearson 2013), to which the facilitators contributed a chapter on "Geography Education and Career Readiness" (with co-author G. Brent Hall of Esri Canada). Additional information about the book, along with how to order, is available from Pearson Education (www.pearsonhighered.com).

Based on the enthusiastic response to the workshop and the positive feedback received from participants, the EDGE project will offer another "Preparing Geography Students for the 21st-Century Workforce" workshop at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the AAG in Los Angeles. Further information will be posted at www.aag.org/annualmeeting/workshops as details are confirmed. ■



Joseph Kerski (Esri), Joy Adams (AAG) and Niem Tu Huynh (AAG) introduced three classroom activities designed to raise students' awareness of employment prospects and articulate the value of geography at the 2012 NCGE conference.

AAG To Reissue Key GIScience Reference Book

With support from Esri and the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), the Association of American Geographers (AAG) has reprinted 2,000 copies of the popular reference book, *Geographic Information Science and Technology Body of Knowledge* (BoK).

"The BoK is a very important reference book about the geospatial field and is immensely useful to educators," says Michael Goodchild, professor emeritus of geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara. "I'm excited that the AAG, Esri, and UCGIS have come together to make it widely available and easily accessible."

AAG will distribute these new copies at no charge to attendees at its national events in 2013. Esri is also providing a free downloadable version of the book at esri.com/gist-bok.

Originally published in 2006, the BoK is the first comprehensive attempt to inventory the knowledge and abilities that comprise the field of geospatial technology. Building on the efforts of Duane Marble, Professor Emeritus of Geography at The Ohio State University, and colleagues to develop a model curriculum for geographic information science and technology education, the UCGIS Education Committee (with support from Esri and

AAG) organized contributions from more than 70 GIS scholars and practitioners to produce the book.

"Esri is pleased to support the reprinting and open access distribution of the BoK," says David DiBiase, Esri director of education and lead editor. "We look forward to broad community participation in the development of a second edition."

UCGIS researchers are currently working on National Science Foundation-funded research to develop an interactive version of the second edition of the book. ■