



AAG Annual Meeting Featured MyCOE Partnership Panels

The 101st conference of the Association of American Geographers brought together more than 5,000 attendees in Denver, Colorado this past April. Two featured sessions presented MyCOE Partnership Panels on important ongoing activities:



Community Mapping: Linking Research, Partners, and Action

This panel discussion explored the growth and impact of community mapping, i.e., research into authentic local issues by persons interested in learning about and creating change in their communities using the tools and concepts of geography. Panelists addressed topics including what community mapping is and overviews of several exemplar programs and models, such as the MyCOE Program, ESRI's Education Program, the Orton Family Foundation's Community Mapping Program (recently transferred to the Institute for Technology Development), the US Department of Agriculture's 4-H Program, and Public Participation GIS initiatives. Discussion also addressed the potential for a new Web-based community mapping portal. Panelists included Patricia Solís, Deputy Director of the AAG; Angela Lee, Industry Solutions Manager for Libraries & Museums at ESRI, Tom Tate, National Program Leader for Community Technology in the Cooperative State Research Education & Extension Service of the US Department of Agriculture, Connie Knapp, Community Mapping Program Director for the Institute for Technology Development, and Rina Ghose, Dhaliwal Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



The Digital Bus and Geographic Information Technology Education

Panelists discussed ongoing efforts to use geographic technologies as learning tools and geography as a discipline capable of providing a unifying framework for education in science technology, engineering and mathematics. Speakers included Ted Sheppard, Office of Naval Research; Charlie Fitzpatrick, ESRI; Joseph Kerski, USGS; Andy Vliet, Akimeka; Becky Boger, GLOBE, and Jongwon Lee, AAG.



*At the Maui Adventure:
◀ Nikolas Schiller (AAG) helps a workshop participant view geographic data in the MCCC Computer Lab.*



◀ Diana Papini (Akimeka) shows another participant how to collect and georeference water sample data in the field.

The Digital Bus and MyCOE hold Training Adventure in Maui



Staff from MyCOE Partner organizations joined together to pilot a workshop training adventure with the Digital Bus Program on the island of Maui. The effort tested an inquiry-driven, hands-on model for teacher training in GIS-GPS while local teachers and students learned more about geographic technologies, sustainable development, and the local environment of Maui Nui. Workshop leaders Joseph Kerski (USGS), Diana Papini (Akimeka), Angela Lee (ESRI), and Nikolas Schiller (AAG) were also joined by Jeri Berc (USDA-NRCS). The Maui County Community College provided additional workshop facilities. The experience and workshop evaluations will be used to develop a broader program and form the basis of a proposal to the National Science Foundation.

READ the report by Joseph Kerski, USGS: <http://rockyweb.cr.usgs.gov/public/outreach/reports/mycoe05t.pdf>

Read All MyCOE Partner Updates Online! at <http://www.geography.org/sustainable/2003-2004programs/partner.htm>

My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) is a multi-institutional educational initiative and World Summit on Sustainable Development Partnership involving secondary, college, and university students worldwide in using geographic methods and tools to address local sustainable development. Partners include the AAG (Secretariat), National Geographic Society, ESRI, UNEP, State Department, USAID, USDA, NOAA, IDB, ONR, and USGS. **FOR MORE INFORMATION** point your browser to www.geography.org/sustainable or email the MyCOE Secretariat at psolis@aag.org. **ADDITIONS TO THE MAILING LIST** should be sent with the name and email address to Dr. Patricia Solís at psolis@aag.org. Previous updates are posted online at www.geography.org/sustainable/2003-2004programs/partner.htm.