

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Geospatial Business Hub Project

Grant Amount: \$2,000,000

Grantee: Institute for Geographic Information Systems Studies (IGISS)

Key Partners: Central Piedmont Community College, Nashville State Community College, Motlow State Community College, Bank of America, Duke Energy, Smart Data Strategies, the Charlotte-Mecklenberg Workforce Development Board, and the University of Southern Mississippi

Leveraged Amount: \$4,387,327

Location of Grant Activities: Charlotte, N.C. and Nashville, Tenn.

Challenge: The geospatial technology sector is an emerging field that, like the computer and information technology industry, cuts across a host of other user and applications focused industries. There are no career ladders and great disparity in curriculum and other approaches for meeting the needs of the geospatial user communities. There is also a need to keep lower skilled but technical database management projects located in the United States, due to homeland security data sensitivity issues and to assist transitioning manufacturing-based rural economies. IGISS' proposal, entitled "The Geospatial Business Hub Project: Preparing the Nation's Geospatial Workforce," will develop a career and education advancement ladder and user -focused curriculum for the land records management and utilities' geospatial technology applications.

Addressing the Challenge: With its \$2,000,000 grant, IGISS will 1) establish the Geospatial Business Hub model and regional infrastructure to provide training for future geospatial technology workers that will reduce current the practice of sending such work overseas; 2) deploy a program to create employer support for geospatial apprenticeship placements; and, 3) develop and deliver training to unemployed and underemployed workers in North Carolina and Tennessee in the geospatial fields of land management and utilities services using the apprenticeship approach.

Projected Outcome:

- 425 individuals trained (100 associate degree and 325 continuing education students/First graduates will earn associate degree May 2007 – First continuing education students will complete training Fall 2005)
- Curriculum for 23 courses and 2 modularized certificates – Land Records and Utilities - that can be completed as part of the associate degree or independently (each certificate can be completed individually or utilized for the next step on the career/education advancement ladder)
- A career ladder/education advancement approach
- User/applications-focused effort centered on lands record management and utilities
- Distance learning center and hybrid presentations of 10 courses developed during the Fall 2005
- Apprenticeship hubs in Nashville and Charlotte that will offer internships, apprenticeships, on-the-job learning and other real work and career opportunity experiences
- Faculty and staff training and professional development approaches
- Ongoing student recruitment, support, outreach, and financial aid

* The term "geospatial industry" is not all-inclusive. It may refer to mapmakers, academics, and others engaged in such activities.

