

MEDIA RELEASE



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National Capital Planning Commission to Host Advanced Technology Training for Historically Black College and University Faculty, Staff, and Students

Washington, DC – The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the Washington Geographic Information System Consortium (WGIS) are hosting the annual Historically Black College and University Geographic Information System (GIS) Workshop from July 19-22 in Washington, D.C.

Faculty, staff, and graduate students from historically black colleges and universities are attending this year's program, which is being held at NCPC's offices in downtown Washington. Attendees will participate in numerous training sessions, conducted by NCPC staff and other highly trained experts, on the most current GIS technology. Trainers will demonstrate how these tools can be applied in university settings and incorporated into the curricula of higher education programs. Workshops will feature hands-on sessions with the latest GIS technology, using Census 2000 data.

"We are extremely pleased to once again sponsor and host this valuable workshop," said NCPC Executive Director Patricia Gallagher. "As our society becomes increasingly reliant on advanced technologies, it is important that our faculty and students be kept abreast of the latest innovations and tools. This workshop will help better prepare students for careers in advanced technology and can help sharpen the skills of professors as well."

GIS is a computer mapping technology that allows users to link to aerial photographs, images, and data to digital street networks, buildings, sidewalks, and other elements of the built environment. The technology is currently being applied to numerous homeland security initiatives. WGIS has been a provider of geographic information products and services to public and private institutions in the Washington area since it was founded in 1996.

Howard University's Continuing Education Program coordinates this annual workshop with additional support from the Department of the Interior (Office of Surface Mining, National Park Service, and United States Geological Survey), the Department of Commerce (Census Bureau), and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). Additional information is available at www.howard.edu or www.wgis.org.

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

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