

# MEDIA RELEASE



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For Immediate Release  
Monday, August 11, 2003

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## **Commission Hosts Advanced Technology Training for Historically Black College and University Faculty**

**Washington, DC** – The National Capital Planning Commission and the Washington Geographic Information System Consortium are hosting the Historically Black College and University Summer Faculty Geographic Information System (GIS) Workshop this week in Washington, D.C.

The weeklong workshop is designed to demonstrate how GIS technology can be applied in university settings and incorporated into the curriculums of higher education programs. GIS is a computer mapping technology that allows users to link 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.

Howard University's Continuing Education Program coordinates this annual workshop with the support of federal agencies, including the National Capital Planning Commission. Participants include faculty members from Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This year's workshops will feature presentations on the application of GIS to Census Data, Redistricting and 3D Visualization.

In addition to the National Capital Planning Commission and Howard University, this year's sponsors include the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining and Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and ESRI, a leading GIS software developer.

"We are delighted to be part of a program that will help today's youth become better prepared to seek careers in planning and technology," said Patricia Gallagher, Executive Director of the National Capital Planning Commission. "This is precisely the kind of effort government executives need to embrace, and I'm delighted to have the Commission once again participate in this important annual event."

Additional information on the GIS workshop program is available online at [www.con-ed.howard.edu](http://www.con-ed.howard.edu) or [www.wgis.org](http://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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