Geospatial Technologies Advisory Board

Members: Aline Gregorio, Ruben Lopez, Joseph Diminutto, Jay Seidel, Adam Aaron, Kai Voeks, Randal Clark, & Kim Louie

Meeting Notes, April 14th. Duration of the meeting: 5-6:15pm

1. Welcome & Introductions - All members present, except Professor Diminutto.

**Overview of Program**

1. Review of Geospatial Technologies Certificate
   1. Program Outline - Professor Gregorio introduced the program outline and comparisons to nearby programs, showing the unique combination of the certificate with drone technology.
   2. Comparisons: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dmpFZArox6o_87q3mS6HM7VPW6JNMlCy/view?usp=sharing>
2. Review of Bureau of Labor Statistics
   1. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/surveying-and-mapping-technicians.htm#tab-8>
3. Review of ESRI’s multi-application publications - professor Gregorio reviewed the recent publications by ESRI that support teaching this course with the purpose of teaching students various skills for various GIS uses. <https://esripress.esri.com/display/index.cfm>
4. Discussion - members engaged in discussion around the following questions.
   1. What particular courses/skills are most valuable for GIS/Geospatial tech? Practical experience using GIS Pro is the most valuable training. Training students to apply geospatial technologies for problem solving. So Cal Edison uses the STAR interview method, which focuses on practical experience versus theoretical knowledge. Given that this is a practical occupation, practice in problem solving was advised to be the most valuable skill by the advisory group. Internship opportunities are greatly reliant on lines of experience with GIS and excitement for GIS. From the student perspective, exposure to the possibilities with GIS was most important. <https://www.themuse.com/advice/star-interview-method>
   2. Does the current proposal equip students with sufficient training/skills needed for entry in your industry?

The drone technology skills makes the program unique and provide students with competitive skills. Few community colleges currently have GIS Pro available to students, so that is a must to enhance the competitiveness of the program and train students. Drones are widely used in utilities and other fields.

1. What software/equipment training is most desirable and competitive for geospatial technologies? How desirable is web-based mapping? Remote sensing?

The college should obtain licensing for GIS Pro - it is a must. Physical computer labs that are equipped for GIS Pro are needed as GIS Pro cannot operate well in a laptop. For remote education, students could have remote virtual access to the computer desktop software. GIS Pro is the competitive edge for training students for entry level GIS positions and ESRI is quickly phasing out other versions of GIS licensing.

Web based mapping is available through GIS pro and is an essential dimension of the work of GIS professionals. Remote sensing is not as common in most GIS fields. Nonetheless, new LIDAR courses being proposed via the Drone Technology Program could amplify the training options for students interested in Geospatial Technologies.

1. Are there suggested future changes/courses?

Remove the word “applications” from GEOG 237, as it implies actual applications’ instead of ‘uses’. A Programming class from computer science, like introduction to code from CIS would give students a competitive edge, as programming is a needed skill. PCC has a certification that is entirely based on GIS/CIS. Jay Seidell suggested to contact Ana Carlin in CIS to connect and consider including CIS courses into the program.

1. Are there any suggestions on how Fullerton College can connect students in this Career Training Program to entry-level professional experiences?

Build a good reputation and engage students with volunteer GIS projects. City of Pomona has worked with Cal Poly Pomona on projects - this partnership helps students with GIS uses and networks. Attend job fairs and connect students with internship programs.

1. Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm with unanimous endorsement of the certificate as proposed (with or without the minor suggested changes/considerations discussed).