

## GIS IN EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES -- JANUARY 23, 2009

Attendees: Miriam Pomilio, Mike Mahaffie, Bruce Allison, Helen Gieske,  
Kim Stratham, Wendy Modzelewski, Brooke Sanders, Nicole Minni

### Website

Nicole reviewed the [www.mygeoworld.org](http://www.mygeoworld.org) website with the committee. Everyone seemed to be pleased with the design of the site and the type of content that is being posted to the site. It was discussed to create a Kid's page, so Nicole will be sending out an email the I-TUG list-serve announcing the site and asking for suggestions to be sent for geography related content on the Kid's page. Also, the following links were suggested to be posted onto the site; DITC Illuminate Conference, National Education Computing Conference, and the ESRI Education Users Conference. Some additional resource links to be added are Delaware DataMIL and My Wonderful World. Mike mentioned that as the library grows keeping an index would be useful. He also mentioned having GeoEducation related items tagged onto the site.

### K-12 Contest

Miriam shared with the committee that historically the K-12 Student Contest is held at the Delaware GIS Conference (DEGIS), but this year the conference will be in February 2010. So, the question of whether the contest should still go on without the DEGIS conference and run separately was discussed. Wendy said that the Delaware Instructional Technology Conference (DITC) will have an online conference hosted by Illuminate and we could hold the contest there, but this conference will be in either late April or May. Members of the committee agreed that with the DSTP's, the Response to Intervention (RTI), and the time constraints it would be best to wait and hold the contest at the February 2010 DEGIS Conference.

In the interim on the K-12 contest portion of the website

<http://mygeoworld.org/studentcontest> an announcement will be made of the contest time change and provide teachers an opportunity to offer feedback about the contest. Then when a new theme (something green, international, something related to local weather, [Wendy discussed the daffodil contest]) is chosen final documents announcing the contest will be placed on the website in August or September 2009. One idea that Nicole suggested at the end of the meeting was "Maps Tell the Story: Creating a Greener Earth."

At this time we reviewed the entry forms and Kim questioned why the breakdown for the entries was set to K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 when the standards are K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12, so it was agreed upon that the new entry form will follow the correct standard breakdown, which again is K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12. Miriam shared with the committee that we had a lot of power point entries this past year enter into the contest which made it difficult for voters to have adequate time to review and vote on each one. So, a couple of ideas were discussed on what changes could be made to improve how we handle digital entries. One idea was to place the digital entries online and use a voting service (UD has one) to have people vote or have a select group of educators and GeoEducation Committee members vote on them ahead of time and narrow down the entries to a more manageable number, so

conference attendees can vote more easily. The committee did not finalize on an idea at this time.

### GIS Day 2008, November 19, 2008

Miriam gave an overview of GIS Day 2008 and showed the committee some highlights from the event which are posted on our web site at

<http://mygeoworld.org/news/delawaregisday08>

A special thank you to Megan Nehrbas for chairing the GIS Day committee and doing such a great job! Over 160 students were exposed to an array of geospatial technologies at this day long event. The morning event, which was a field trip for three 5<sup>th</sup> classrooms consisting of one class from each county, filled very quickly. The schools which attended were; McVey in Christina School District, Nellie Hughes Stokes in Caesar Rodney School District and Shields in Cape Henlopen School District. Each year GIS Day is celebrated the Wednesday during Geography Awareness week, will falls the third week in November. Next year Delaware's GIS Day event will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 18, 2009; the committee hopes to make it just as successful!

### Workshops/School Events

1. Miriam and Nicole presented at the Delaware Council for the Social Studies Conference and each presentation has been posted on the website at <http://mygeoworld.org/conferences> Their presentations were very well attended.
2. Miriam shared that she has visited and worked within two classrooms recently on two GIS exercises which can be found in **Book 1** of the new Our World GIS Education Book Series from ESRI Press Schools [http://www.esri.com/news/releases/08\\_2qtr/our\\_world\\_books.html](http://www.esri.com/news/releases/08_2qtr/our_world_books.html)
  - a. McVey Elementary used GIS to learn about Early Settlement Patterns of the United States – Module 3 Recognizing patterns: People and places
  - b. Southern Elementary students used GIS to learn about Animals around the world – Module 2: Classifying the world: The animal kingdom
3. Nicole share that she recently worked with 4 - 7<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms at Millsboro Middle School on a GIS watershed exercise. The students used the smart board and GIS to find out how the watershed which their school falls within has changed over a 10 year time period using land use.
4. Nicole is also scheduled to do a GIS weather exercise with an 8<sup>th</sup> grade science class at Beacon Middle School. During this exercise the students will also interact with the smart board and GIS to study countries in Central America before and after Hurricane Mitch hit.

### Lesson Plans for GIS and/or GPS

Kim passed out the Delaware Model Unit Gallery Template and discussed that the social studies curriculum writers want to create a unit online and would like to meet with Miriam and Nicole to see what options there are. The steps in doing this are; design and coach a quality unit, group of jurors review it to see if meets the requirements. There are currently seven units on the web site, geography standard 4 – 6-8 grade level broken into 2-4 lessons per unit. Kim mentioned during her discussion of the Delaware Model Unit Gallery that one problem with online lessons is keeping the external links current.

Kim also mentioned that she would like assistance from the GeoEducation Committee with the Lewis and Clark unit and a unit about the Middle East – Geographic Regions which aligns to a civics unit using Iran as a context. Another difficulty is clarification documents online and copyright issues. Kim, Miriam and Nicole are scheduled to meet Friday, February 27, 2009 at 10:00am in the Townsend Building.

Wendy and Kim spoke of some summer programs that offer FREE graduate credits that are held at UD and at Delaware State. Wendy suggested that Miriam contact Pat Sine to learn more. In the past Miriam and Nicole have participated in the DCET Academy, the DGA Summer Institute and Inservice Days. Wendy mentioned that it would be a good idea to contact Jacqui Wilson to see about setting up a table at the Policy and Practice Institute Administration Conference. It is a conference for school administrators. Nicole will do this.

Miriam spoke of the Google Earth Piedmont Geology project. Lori Roe, an Instructional Technology Specialist with the Cape Henlopen School District, is now a certified Google Instructor who needs to create two lessons a year for her certification. So her first lesson is the virtual tour using Google Earth of the Piedmont Geology. This virtual field trip will show points of interest along the way accompanied with pictures, video and audio.

Miriam, will be sending out the logos again for a final vote, so please cast your vote!

#### Next Meeting

May 2009, Helen asked that it not be the week of the 10<sup>th</sup>.