

## Quarterly GIS BILT Meeting

December 11, 2014

### Meeting Minutes

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#### Introduction – Phil Davis

#### SLCC ESRI Certifications – CE

Adam Dastrup – I wanted to briefly talk about this. At Salt Lake Community College, we pay into a statewide license for ESRI, which is the industry standard. Most of our classes are wrapped around ArcGIS product. The state license will provide our students with an educational personal license for their home computers, and access to numerous ESRI Virtual Campus courses that are industry recognized. Students who take these virtual courses through ESRI, once completing all of the modules, activities, and take the assessments, they will get a credential/certificate through ESRI. We have been using this for a while as a major component to our introductory course but it doesn't make up the entire course. Students who take our Geospatial Technology course will learn the theory of Geospatial Technology, which is a mixture of what was created by Del Mar and what I've created or found in other areas. The students will also participate in online discussion forums. In regards to the hands on experience with ArcGIS, we have the students take a course called Learning ArcGIS Desktop. It covers 8 modules with everything ranging from symbology, cartography, and geoprocessing techniques. They get a very strong overall introduction to the software and what you can do with it. According to ESRI, it takes students about 24 hours to complete, which is a good component of our course. At the end, they do a final project. We're requesting if students complete all 8 modules and they earn this credential; for the grant purpose, could we use this credential as a professional credential that we could count towards completions? If we have your approval, we already have it worked out with our college. Students will also receive a certificate from our CE department as a professional certificate accepted by industry. This would also show up on their transcript. Students wouldn't have to pay extra because they would be paying for the course itself.

Demetrio Zourarakis – We have experience with the side license program with ESRI. If you are going to do major curriculum work and massive deployment of coursework, you have to have this available for students. With that being said, I am in support of this. It is a good deal for students.

Ann Beheler – A lot of the BILT teams in other IT specialties have begun to approve CE type certificates. We get more credit according to the outcomes goals this way. The way that Adam is using this is in line with what we were doing with the other disciplines. As long as the BILT team recognizes it, it is fine.

Adam Dastrup – I want to add that our school focuses on portfolios. What is nice about the certificates is that students can put these certificates on their online portfolio. Employers can see that the student has taken a certificate program, as well as this type of program. We find that using this ESRI program, it shows their skill level as a package.

Ann Beheler – It does not seem that there is any opposition.

Adam Dastrup – I also wanted to ask if this can be awarded to students who have taken it in past semesters.

Ann Beheler – If the BILT agrees and it is shown on the minutes, it shouldn't be a problem. Does anybody have a problem approving this retroactively?

*Approved.*

## **Trends**

Phil Davis – John, would you like to report on any new findings on your work with DACUMS?

John Johnson – There is nothing new to report on my work with DACUM other than what has already been identified. The direction now is to really look at jobs that involve the use of GIS but aren't strictly GIS. That seems to be where all the interest is right now in job training; incorporate GIS to occupations and relying on it without being GIS technician or specialist.

Phil Davis – If that is the case, one of our 3-5 course certificates would be sufficient for someone in that situation. Would you say that is right?

John Johnson – The point might be whether or not all of that is necessary if you are going to work in a very specialized area. You may not need to know everything in the certificate to use GIS as part of your job. We spoke about the gas industry the last time and the skills that are needed to work in that industry as a Geospatial professional. It may not be a part of the typical certificate program because there may be things in there that are not important to them; so the answer is yes and no.

Phil Davis – How do we grab part of that market? All of the two year schools have set degrees such as Associates. Should we put together some specialized courses through Continuing Education?

John Johnson – You would be more successful in capturing that market if you had a tailored certificate. The best route would be if you approach an industry with documentation for the skills that are necessary in their field and how you can capture those competencies. You would probably get more interest that way instead of getting them to come in and be a GIS specialist.

Carolyn French – The certificate programs actually do give students good functional skills sets. I think what is missing is data warehouse concepts and advanced data warehouse skills. I have never worked as a GeoTech on the front-end doing cartography alone. I have always been in the back end of the business, manipulating data sets. The manipulation of data sets takes on high level skills in Oracle or SQL Server. In the last five years – I have also been doing location analytics. I've mentioned before that the ArcGIS online is very crucial because it includes that data warehouse concept.

Phil Davis – All of the literature that I've read by the GIS gurus are saying that GIS is about to get swamped by big data. That confirms what you are saying and students need the major database skills.

Demetrio Zourarakis – The one thing that I've heard about in the last 48 hours is open data and open data ports. Those two things are huge.

Phil Davis – We will definitely look into that for a future recommendation on curriculum.

### **Updates**

JJ Nelson – Right now, we have a number of students that have applied for a certificate. Job placements have been moving along; we've been looking into internships for students. We also have events such as GIS Day, workshops, seminars, etc. to network with our students, as our students are networking with businesses. We have a capstone for next year that will involve students going out and working with different groups.

Phil Davis – I'll send Brian's contact information to Christina.

Christina Titus – Great, thank you. The next meeting will be in March.

*Meeting adjourned 12:45pm*