



Brent C. Hedquist, Ph.D., GISP - Professor and Chair of the Department of Physics and Geosciences at Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Year of Initial GISP Certification: 2015

Education / Other professional licenses or certifications:

- Ph.D. in Geography from Arizona State University in 2010, with an emphasis in climatology and GIS.
- M.A. in Geography from Arizona State University
- B.S. in Geography from Brigham Young University
- Certificate in Geographic Information Science at Arizona State University in 2003.

Professional Experience:

- Professor and Chair of the Department of Physics and Geosciences at Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- Director of the Geospatial Research Lab at Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Professional Organizations / Activities:

- Association of American Geographers (AAG)
- American Meteorological Society (AMS)
- American Geophysical Union (AGU)
- South Central Arc Users Group (SCAUG)
- Geospatial Professional Network (GPN), GPN-Texas
- International Association for Urban Climate (IAUC)
- American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

Statement of Interest:

I am interested in serving as an at-large GISP-Elected member of the GISCI Board of Directors because my career has been dedicated to preparing students and professionals to use geospatial technologies with competence, integrity, and public purpose. GISCI's role in advancing proficient GIS professionals through the GISP certification program aligns closely with my work as a geospatial educator, researcher, department chair, and certified GISP. GISCI emphasizes professional and ethical standards, community engagement, and professional mentoring within the GIS industry, all of which are central to how I approach geospatial education and service.

As Professor and Chair of the Department of Physics and Geosciences at Texas A&M University-

Kingsville and Director of the Geospatial Research Lab, I have worked to expand access to GIS education, applied research, and workforce pathways for students in South Texas. I teach undergraduate and graduate courses in GIS, field mapping, cartography & GPS, remote sensing, environmental geography, and geospatial applications. My work has included student-centered GIS projects in environmental change, urban climate, natural resources, historical preservation, GEOINT pathways, and community-based mapping.

I am especially committed to teaching aspiring geospatial professionals both foundational GIS concepts and the latest tools shaping the profession. This includes exposure to open-source data, software, and reproducible workflows using tools such as Python, QGIS, R, and related geospatial libraries, as well as emerging applications involving IoT, cloud-based geospatial data, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. I believe GISCI can play an important role in helping professionals navigate this rapidly changing landscape while maintaining strong standards for technical competence, ethical judgment, and service to the public good.

I would bring to the GISCI Board the perspective of a higher-education practitioner who sees the certification pathway from the student and early-career professional point of view. GISCI's portfolio process recognizes education, professional experience, and contributions to the profession, and higher education can help emerging professionals understand, document, and value each of those areas. I am especially interested in helping strengthen connections among GISCI, universities, professional organizations, employers, and students so that the GISP credential remains visible, meaningful, and accessible to a broad range of geospatial professionals.

I am also committed to the ethical dimensions of GIS practice. As GIS increasingly intersects with artificial intelligence, remote sensing, privacy, public data, environmental decision-making, and community resilience, GISCI has an important role in reinforcing responsible professional practice. Serving on the Board would allow me to give back to the certification community while contributing my experience in teaching, mentoring, academic leadership, and applied geospatial research. I would approach the role with a collaborative mindset, a commitment to ethical GIS practice, and a strong interest in supporting the next generation of GISPs.