Heather Hicks, PhD, GISP® Director of Spatial Analytics and Data Science, Civitas Resources

Year of Initial GISP Certification: 2009

Education / Other professional licenses or certifications:

- BS Geology 1992 / BA Geography 1992
- MSGIS 2004
- PhD Geography 2021
- GIS Certificate 1999

Professional Experience:

- Director, Spatial Analytics & Data Science – Civitas Resources, Nov 2021 – present
- Sr Manager GIS – Crestone Peak Resources, Jul 2016 – Nov 2021
- GIS Manager/Team Lead – Encana Oil & Gas (USA), Jun 2007 – Jul 2016
- GIS Coordinator – Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Dec 2001 – June 2007
- Adjunct Faculty – University of Denver, Sept 2004 – present
- Adjunct Faculty – Johns Hopkins University, 2009 – present

Professional Organizations / Activities:

- GISP (Geographic Information Systems Professional) since 2009
- Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt, 2009
- PUG (Petroleum User Group) Steering Committee, Education Chair since 2024
- Denver PUG (Petroleum User Group) Co-Chair 2010-2012
- RM-URISA, Secretary (2010-2011)
- Founder and Chair, Civitas Women's Network Employee Resource Group

Statement of Interest:

I am honored to be nominated and considered for a position on the GISCI Board of Directors. I have worked in the GIS profession since 1993 and have witnessed—and actively contributed to—the evolution of geospatial science, technology, and professional practice over more than three decades. My career spans environmental consulting, telecommunications and utilities, geological and hydrological sciences, energy, and state, local, and federal government, providing me with a broad, cross-sector perspective on the role and value of GIS in diverse organizational contexts.

In parallel with my industry career, I have served as an educator in higher education since 2004, bringing real-world geospatial experience into graduate-level instruction. I currently support GIS education as adjunct faculty at the University of Denver's College of Professional Studies and Department of Geography, and at Johns Hopkins University Advanced Academic Programs (AAP). Across online and on-campus programs at the University of Denver, I have developed and taught a wide range of graduate courses, including environmental applications, natural hazards, natural resources, conservation GIS, geographic research methods, and GIS project management.

Since the inception of the Johns Hopkins University GIS program, I have supported its development both as an instructor and as a consultant contributing to academic program design conceptualization. I currently teach *Geographic Information Systems* and *Capstone for Geographic Information Systems*, allowing me to engage with students at both the beginning and culmination of their academic journeys. This unique vantage point has given me deep insight into the growth of geospatial competencies, professional readiness, and the evolving skills required of today's GIS practitioners.

Professionally, my work focuses on advancing spatial enterprise transformation, geospatial analytics, and data-driven decision support within corporate and government environments. I specialize in designing innovative approaches to modernize geospatial ecosystems, improve analytical workflows, and increase organizational value through spatial analytics and data science. I have extensive experience collaborating with Colorado state agencies, U.S. federal agencies, and private-sector organizations to deliver scalable, sustainable geospatial solutions that serve diverse user communities.

I am deeply committed to mentoring the next generation of geospatial professionals and supporting the continued growth and relevance of GIS as a discipline. I believe my combination of long-standing industry leadership, academic service, and commitment to professional development would allow me to meaningfully contribute to the GISCI Board of Directors. I am eager to collaborate with the Board and the broader Community of Practice to advocate for the GIS Professional certification, strengthen its relevance across industries, and help guide the profession through ongoing technological and organizational change.