



The GIS Certification Institute · 701 Lee Street, Suite 680 · Des Plaines, Illinois 60016

(847) 824-7768 · Fax (847) 824-6363 · info@gisci.org · www.gisci.org

For immediate release:

GISCI Considers Updates to GIS Professional Certification

July 8, 2010: The GIS Certification Institute's Board of Directors today charged a committee of certified GIS Professionals (GISPs) to propose revisions to GISP certification requirements. Observing that "the geospatial industry, and the GIS profession within it, has matured considerably" since GISCI was founded in 2004, Board members unanimously endorsed a GISP Certification Update Initiative.

According to GISCI President David DiBiase, "the purpose of GISP certification is to advance the GIS profession by promoting competent and ethical professional practice. Portfolio-based certification made sense in 2004, when no authoritative specification of geospatial competencies yet existed. The Department of Labor's recently issued Geospatial Technology Competency Model helps fill that gap, and sets the stage for serious consideration of competency-based GISP certification."

In addition to a "new competency-based examination requirement for some or all applicants," the Board also asked GISCI's Certification Committee to consider other changes that "increase rigor, streamline, eliminate ambiguities, or otherwise update and improve existing certification criteria and procedures."

GISCI's Certification Committee will deliver to the Board a proposed GISP Certification Update plan before the end of the 2010 calendar year. Following a month-long public comment period in early 2011, the Board will decide whether to adopt, revise, or table the plan. If approved by the GISCI Board, any new certification requirements are expected to take effect three years from the date of approval.

"GISCI has certified over 4,500 GISPs," says Executive Director Sheila Wilson. "Successful applicants submit portfolios that document substantial achievements in education, professional experience, and contributions to the profession. Many GISPs believe that an even more rigorous certification process will further enhance their standing in the geospatial field. "

For more information about GISCI and GISP certification, visit <http://www.gisci.org>