

**Press Release: For Immediate Distribution**

**GISCI Announces the Phase II Exam Development Project Manager**

**Des Plaines, IL (July 3, 2013)**

At its June meeting, the GISCI Board selected and contracted with a Project Manager for Phase II of the plan to develop and deploy an exam component for the GIS Professional Certification in early 2015.

Rebecca Somers GISP, a principal with Somers-St. Claire GIS Management Consulting, excelled in guiding GISCI and the project team in the Exam Development process of Phase I. Somers will continue to lead in selecting a professional test development company to guide the GISCI and the GISP subject matter experts in creating the exam. GISCI will also select a professional test delivery company to administer the exam, expected to debut in a year and a half.

In previous meetings, the Board affirmed its plan to update the Certification process to align with the US Department of Labor's Geospatial Technical Competency Model by adding an exam component to the current program format, a peer-reviewed portfolio. In August of 2012, the Board selected Somers to generate the Exam Development Plan. That phase of the project was completed in the First Quarter of 2013, and we are now moving into the second phase of the three-year plan.

The certification process will continue with the current, peer-reviewed portfolio process and, when the new exam is finalized, it will be implemented in addition to the current program.

**About GISCI**

The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization, established in 2004, to manage and operate the premier professional certification program for the GIS Profession and to promote ethical conduct among GISPs. GISCI offers participants, from the first years on the job until retirement, a positive method of developing value for professionals and employers in the GIS profession.

Its member organizations include the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA), National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), and Geographic Land and Information Society (GLIS).

The organization is now developing an exam component for the GISP Certification to be implemented in early 2015 and has certified over 5,400 GISPs, worldwide

Media Contact:

Bill Hodge GISP, Executive Director GISCI  
[bhodge@gisci.org](mailto:bhodge@gisci.org)      [www.gisci.org](http://www.gisci.org)