



Wisconsin Statewide Educational GIS Site License for Public and Private Schools

By Melanie McCalmont, Department of Public Instruction

Through a state partnership with Esri, all public and private K-12 schools and afterschool programs in Wisconsin now can get the Esri ArcGIS suite of geospatial information systems (GIS) software for teaching and learning. To date, 15 public and private schools have installed the ArcGIS 10.2 desktop, including the Milwaukee Public School district's ArcServer deployment. More Wisconsin schools are using ArcGIS Online. Over 30 Wisconsin professionals have signed up to be GeoMentors, or resource persons for teachers who need advice or ideas on GIS projects, concepts, or skills.

Melanie McCalmont is the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction GIS Educational Site License Coordinator. "The Statewide Educational GIS Site License is part of a statewide effort to foster geospatial literacy in Wisconsin, and to offer students a powerful learning tool on the path to college and career readiness," says McCalmont. "We're actively looking for partners with ideas on implementation, resources, or projects that will help DPI get this powerful tool into the hands of students and teachers."

Geographic information systems (GIS) technology has been used by government and higher education throughout Wisconsin for many years, and now its K-12 students have the opportunity to explore its many capabilities as well. "Content-area teachers will find access to GIS technology extremely helpful in the classroom," says Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Social Studies Consultant Kristen McDaniel. "GIS is exceptionally valuable not only for geography and social studies inquiry instruction, but also for science, agriculture, natural resources, and environmental education. Educators will have the opportunity to widen the horizons of their students and better prepare them to be college, career, and community ready."

What is the statewide GIS educational site license? It is agreement No. 2011MSL4170 "Statewide Education Site License" signed by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction on 27 August 2013 with Esri, Inc. The DPI administers the site licenses and provides support for content and learning. The software is authorized for enrolled youth, teaching staff, and administrative staff members on PCs, Macs, and servers. While administrative use has some limitations, classrooms can take advantage of a huge array of the newest ArcGIS 10.2 advanced software, Virtual Campus training, Esri data sets, Maps for Office, extensions, server deployments, and many publishing options. Current, paid-for programs can become "rolled-in," or transfer a statewide license authorization code into the existing educational site's software, thus receiving all the benefits under the Statewide Agreement.

The Wisconsin Geography Alliance has been very supportive of the opportunity for the state's primary and secondary school students to learn GIS concepts. "When I've spoken to alliance teachers about the prospect of a statewide GIS license," says Mark Bockenbauer, Coordinator of the Wisconsin Geographic Alliance, "They've said things like, 'can't wait to explore the cross-curricular GIS possibilities for my class and department!' It seems to me that when school administrators become aware of the chance to employ GIS in BOTH their classrooms and their district operations, they'll be lining up for it."

In This Issue

Wisconsin Statewide Educational GIS Site License for Public and Private Schools

WIGICC Election Results

View our profile on [Linked in](#)

Council Membership



Get to know your Council!:

Officers:

Jon Schwichtenberg, Chair
Private Sector Rep., GRAEF

Dave Flack, Vice Chair
Private Sector Rep., Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.

Jeff DuMez, Secretary
County Rep., Brown County

Todd Clausen, Treasurer
Non-Profit Rep., Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee

Ex-Officios (non-voting):

(Vacant), GIO
Howard Veregin, State Cartographer

Full Board:

City, Town, and Village
William Shaw, City of Milwaukee
Tammy Castonia, Village of Little Chute

County
David Poffinbarger, Shawano County
Jeff DuMez, Brown County

State Government
John Laedlein, WDNR
(Vacant)
(Vacant)

Federal Government
(Vacant)

On July 14-16, the UW-Madison Department of Geography and Wisconsin Geographic Alliance held the first workshop for teachers new to GIS after the site license was deployed. "Jaime Stoltenberg, Karen Turek, and Tanya Buckingham did an excellent job of showing the teachers how to do practical and concrete applications of GIS and GPS technology," says McCalmont. Teachers learned how to find data, make simple maps, and perform some basic data analysis functions; and to replicate a GIS activity in the classroom. Each teacher got a disk of the statewide site license software and a lesson plan starter kit with data that can be used in the classroom. McCalmont hopes that more colleges will be able to hold credit-earning GIS workshops for teachers in 2015.

Regional Planning Commission
Joshua Schedler, Bay-Lake RPC

Private
Jon Schwichtenberg, GRAEF
Dave Flack, Ruckert & Mielke, Inc.

Academic
Charles Rader, UWRF
Krissy Lukens, St. Norbert

Non-Profit
Todd Clausen, Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee
(Vacant)

Tribal
(Vacant)

At-Large Members
Ron Wencil, USGS Minnesota
(Vacant)
(Vacant)

To become a member of the Network or to find out more about Council, click [here](#) to visit our website.

Future Events and Next Meeting Information:

November 20, 2014
Conference Call
1-3 PM

December
Committee Meetings

January 15, 2015
Meeting
1-3 PM

February
Committee Meetings

March 19, 2015
Conference Call
1-3 PM

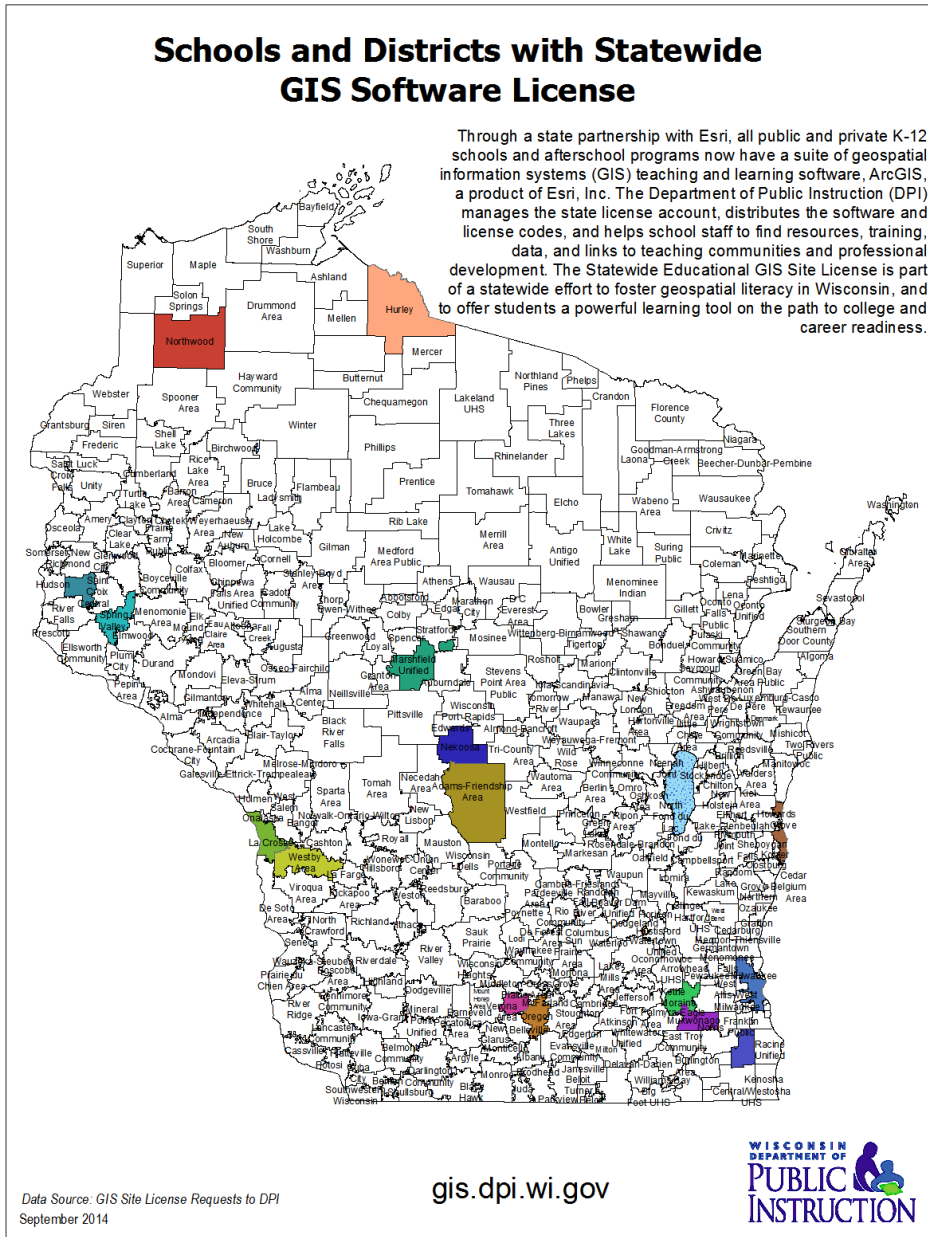
Core Committees:

Executive Committee
Goals: Delivery of Council and Network meetings and communications; Accommodation for creation of a permanent council.

Data Framework Committee
Goals: Coordination with Network to facilitate sharing of geospatial data and services.

Schools and Districts with Statewide GIS Software License

Through a state partnership with Esri, all public and private K-12 schools and afterschool programs now have a suite of geospatial information systems (GIS) teaching and learning software, ArcGIS, a product of Esri, Inc. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) manages the state license account, distributes the software and license codes, and helps school staff to find resources, training, data, and links to teaching communities and professional development. The Statewide Educational GIS Site License is part of a statewide effort to foster geospatial literacy in Wisconsin, and to offer students a powerful learning tool on the path to college and career readiness.



gis.dpi.wi.gov

Donna Genzmer, Director of Cartography and GIS Center, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, says: "I'm really thrilled that GIS software is available to all Wisconsin K-12 public and private school students! The Wisconsin GIS professional community is eager to help implement and support this important statewide project. It will provide classroom teachers with rich tools to integrate spatial learning into the classroom."

Also important for teachers is the annual T3G summer institute June 14-19, 2015 in Redlands, CA. T3G is a professional development event for educators and education influencers who help other educators learn why and how to use GIS. Through modeling, practice, and discussion, participants boost their skills in teaching with computers, in problem-based learning, in conducting professional development,

and in using GIS. T3G is staffed by Esri personnel and renowned outside educators with decades of collected experience in helping formal and informal educators learn how to teach with GIS in a wide array of settings. McCalmont says, "If you know of any teachers who would enjoy this event, there are 2 complimentary registrations with the statewide site license." Teachers should contact her no later than November 4 to apply.

Esri has established a special community at <http://edcommunity.esri.com/> with many resources for teaching with geospatial concepts, or for helping students learn the software. This site includes: ArcLessons, Syllabi, Lesson Plans, Ideas, Careers in GIS, Case Studies, Sponsoring a GeoClub at School, On-demand videos, Sample maps, Connecting with other teachers, E-books, and much more. If you are a teacher or you're a GeoMentor, this is a rich set of resources for many teaching scenarios.

"The K-12 license is great news," says Howard Veregin, Wisconsin State Cartographer. "A lot of us are hoping it will translate into higher geographic literacy and increased knowledge of GIS and mapping technologies for Wisconsin students. GIS is becoming increasingly integrated into many different aspects of society, so it's critical that students have some exposure to this technology before they reach college."

Contact: Melanie McCalmont, Department of Public Instruction, (608) 267-9162

WIGICC Election Results

By Josh Schedler, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission

During the September WIGICC board meeting the annual elections were held to fill expiring or vacant positions on the council. There were three people reelected, Todd Clausen, Ron Wencil, and Josh Schedler. Thank you to the three of you for your continued contribution to the board. WIGICC also welcomed three new members to the board. Tammy Castonia, Jeff DuMez, and Dave Flack. Thank you to these three for committing their future time and input to the board.

Along with electing the six board members, the officers that keep the WIGICC board on task were also elected at the September meeting. The officer election results are as follows:

- Chair – Jon Schwichtenberg
- Vice-Chair – David Flack
- Secretary – Jeff DuMez
- Treasurer – Todd Clausen

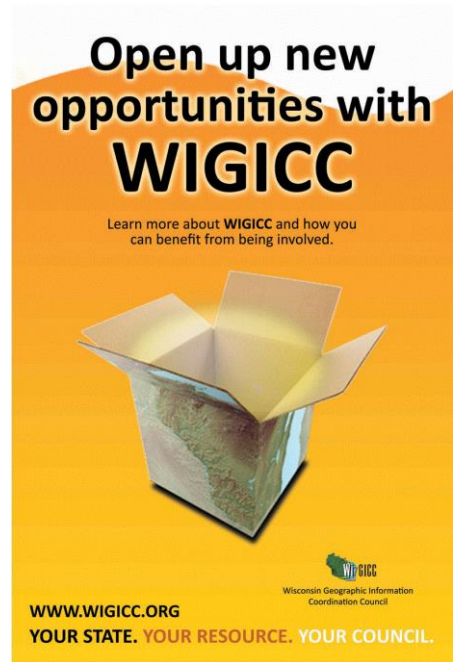
Another thank you to these four. They will help move WIGICC forward over the next two years.

There was one issue that arose after the elections were completed. Several positions were left vacant. This is where the board needs the help from you, our members. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the WIGICC Board please let us know. The board is seeking to fill vacant positions in these sections.

- Federal Government – 1 Position
- Non-Profit Organization – 1 Position
- State Government – 2 Positions
- At-Large – 2 Positions

Please contact Howard Veregin, State Cartographer, at (608) 262-3065 if you are interested or have the name of a person to nominate.

Outreach Committee
Goals: Foster communication between geospatial practitioners; Communicate Council activities to Network; Advise decision-makers on appropriate use of geospatial data; Educate leaders, citizens, and organizations. Marketing material - E-newsletter, brochure



Have a question?
Feel free to contact any of our
council members

Wisconsin Geographic Coordination Council
P.O. Box 45104
Madison, WI 53744-5104

Contacts: Jon Schwichtenberg, Chair

Dave Flack, Vice Chair

Your State, Your Resource, Your Council

Disclaimer: The material contained in this document does not necessarily reflect all formal policies and positions of WIGICC and is provided solely for the purpose of relaying information and resources to the subscribed user.