



# THE SUMMIT

News From and For the Washington GIS Community

## WAURISA President's Message

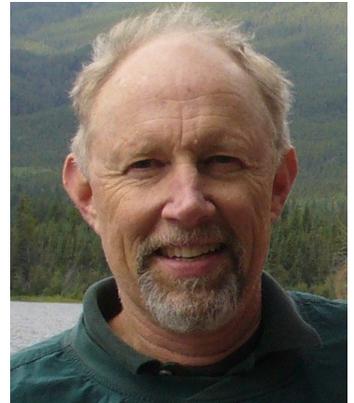
By: Ian Von Essen, Spokane County GIS Manager,  
WAURISA President

**H**appy 2018. Another year is already upon us. As I write this on a frosty mid-winter's weekend morning from my desk at home, I feel honored to be able to serve as President for WAURISA. We all work in the stimulating and exhilarating field of GIS that continues to grow, expand, and provide all of us new opportunities as GIS technology itself adapts to the latest IT innovations and advancements. One of the main goals of WAURISA as an organization is to follow the trends of our GIS industry and continue to provide educational opportunities to stay abreast of these changes for you through our annual conferences and various seminars throughout the year. I would especially like to thank Josh Greenberg, now our Past President, for his two great years of service as President of the Board. He certainly is a great role model to follow, and I hope to the

lead the group with as much enthusiasm, passion and energy as he did.

I hope many of you had the opportunity to attend last year's WAURISA 2017 conference in Tacoma, WA.

It was a great conference, well attended, and offered many great sessions as well as pre-conference educational seminars which we will be offering again at this year's conference in Olympia, WA. I would especially like to thank last year's keynote speaker, Monica Stephens, Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo (SUNY) on her thought-provoking keynote presentation, "Layers of Social Change: Gender and Geographic Information." It was an eye-opening view into how our maps used in everyday



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Join us in Olympia for the Annual WAURISA Conference  
Artwork by Jane Wingfield [www.olyksketcher.com](http://www.olyksketcher.com)

# A “Portable Homeland” - Mapping as Art & Seattle’s Inscape Gallery

By Jacob Tully, Editor-in-Chief & WAURISA Board Member



A portion of Karey Kessler’s “Portable Homeland” - Photo Credit: [www.corvoophoto.com](http://www.corvoophoto.com)

There are many types of maps. Maps that show us the way forward, maps that lead us home, maps that show us places we may never visit, and best of all, maps that you can get lost in. Karey Kessler is a Seattle based artist who specializes in the latter. Set amidst the backdrop of a booming Seattle skyline and a raging national debate over immigration policies, I met up with her to talk about her most recent work, “Portable Homeland” at the Inscape Gallery in Seattle’s International District. Kessler is a visual artist who finds her work expressed in maps, or maplike paintings. However to call her work strictly a map is to oversimplify. In her own words, her most recent work “use[s] the imagery of a map, unscrolled on a

table, to explore my inscape, or internal landscape of time, place, and spirituality. A place “beginningless and boundless”; a time “between what was and what will be”; a “mysterious unknown.”

Before I get to the work itself, a bit about the Inscape Gallery that served as inspiration for “Portable Homeland.” The building is some 80,000 square feet of brick that, once housed Seattle’s Immigration and Naturalization Service, and stands in stark contrast to the glass walled condos sprouting elsewhere in the city. A sign emblazoned across the top of the building still reads “UNITED STATES IMMIGRANT STATION AND ASSAY OFFICE,” and is bordered on both sides

*(Continued on page 4)*

# President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

life simultaneously maintain and reproduce race, class, and gender biases. A very relevant and important topic in today's world. Her presentation challenged us as a community of GIS professionals to offer solutions to ameliorate these issues, like having open, online, publicly accessible spatial data that can be used to support democratic processes within our own communities. Access to spatial information can support processes for change that can ultimately lessen if not remove these inherent biases. I also would like to thank last year's WAURISA conference committee for all their hard work in pulling off yet another excellent WAURISA conference, because without their dedication and commitment, we would not have the opportunity to meet, learn, grow and network as professional peers through WAURISA events.

I look forward to serving as President for the next two years. And if you are not currently involved with WAURISA, I encourage you to become involved. You are always welcome to attend our monthly call-in meetings, which are on the 2nd Wednesday at noon of every month. Please contact me if you want to call in. We have been hard at work on next year's

conference, and we are always looking for new, energetic individuals to join our numerous committees. If you are already involved, please spend some time to reflect on what WAURISA provides for you and how you could make WAURISA better. To have a thriving, relevant professional organization, we need to continually re-evaluate ourselves and make sure we are doing the best job we can. Your involvement, no matter how small, will insure our continued relevancy and success.

I hope you all had a relaxing set of holidays and are finding some time to get outside and enjoy this wonderful northwest winter.

-Ian

## UPCOMING SUMMIT DEADLINES

Submit articles to *The Summit* for publication by:

	Early Spring	Late Spring
First Draft (optional)	3/16/2018	4/13/2018
Final Draft	3/22/2018	4/20/2018

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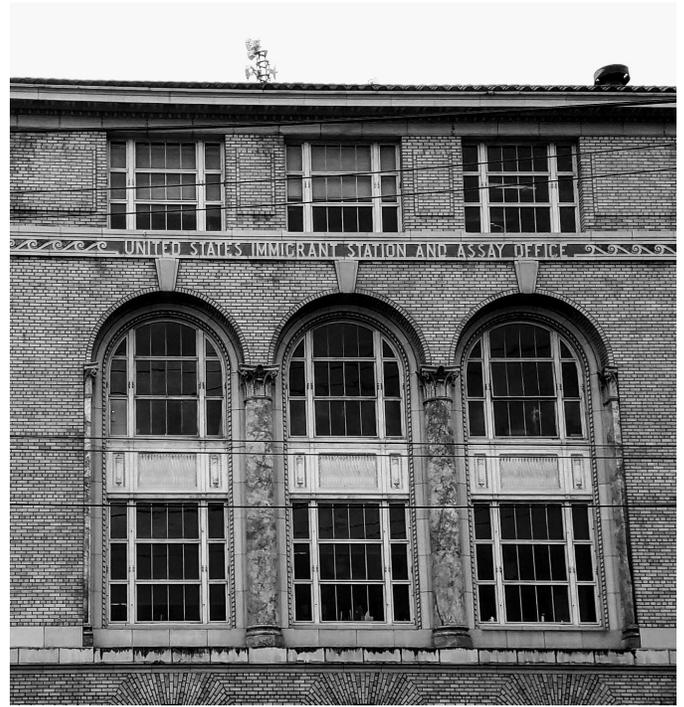
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# Portable Homeland

*(Continued from page 2)*

by a line of gold, blue-backed waves crashing inwards. No doubt a tribute to the journeys of generations of immigrants who passed through this portal to discover America.

Inside, the former detention & administrative center has been reformatted to house “upwards of 125 tenants” making it “the largest arts and culture enclave in Seattle.” A walk through its halls offers visitors glimpses into the many working studios, as well as numerous historical plaques detailing the buildings history and profiles of people who’d spent time there. There are many creative works on display in the building, but perhaps the most haunting of all is the graffiti of former detainees in the 3<sup>rd</sup> story courtyards. A quick glance reveals references places like Guatemala, Pakistan, Honduras, Russia & Mexico surrounded by phrases, dates, initials & names. Seattle’s stadiums occupying much of the view to the south & west, the courtyard experience is at once hopeful and eerie, and



*Entrance to Seattle's Inscape Gallery*

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worth a visit all on its own.

Back inside, Kessler’s exhibit “Portable Homeland” sits well lit in an otherwise dark room. It’s a map, or something resembling a map of watercolor on a long roll of heavy weight paper, the spool of excess still rolled on one end. The paper warped and wavy from

*(Continued on page 6)*



*Graffiti adorning the Seattle's former U.S. Immigrant Station and Assay Office, now the Inscape Gallery*

# The Gene Hoerauf Scholarship

By Chris Behee, GIS Analyst at City of Bellingham Planning & Community Development Department

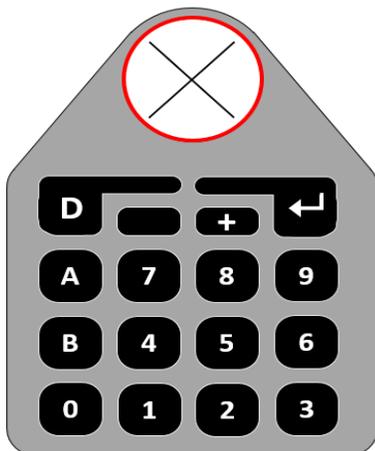
How many of you remember spending long hours digitizing points, lines, and polygons in the basement of Arntzen Hall at Western Washington University? Or working on a 286 PC with SPSS Graphics attempting to get your choropleth map patterns to work with your labels? Or if you were there in the early years, struggling with a sheet of mylar, a bottle of India ink, and a Leroy Lettering Set (and of course, an electric eraser), labeling a map of Africa, or a Sinusoidal Projection of the Earth. Can you remember how to calculate your root mean square error? Can you explain the difference between precision and accuracy? How about large scale versus small scale maps? If you answered “yes” to any of these, then you also remember the patient, cheerful, and encouraging, presence of Gene Hoerauf. Prior to his retirement in 2005 Gene spent 35 years at Western selflessly dedicating his life to helping students, faculty, and members of the community through his teaching, technical assistance, and mentoring. Gene's passion has always been cartography and the art and science of making beautiful maps. Many of us

can remember those early mornings, long days, and late nights in the basement of Arntzen Hall performing spatial analysis, and creating maps for undergraduate, graduate, or faculty projects. Gene was always there to offer support, and guidance, and to generously share his many years of cartographic wisdom and know-how.

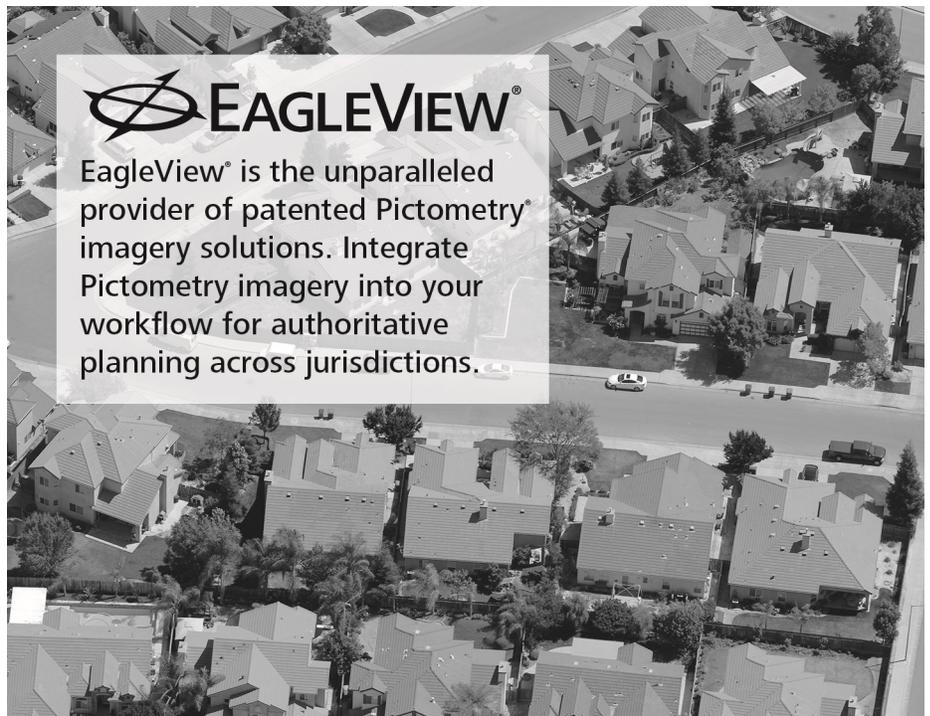
To honor Gene and his years of service a scholarship in his name has been put in place with the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG). This scholarship will assist students focusing on Cartography and GIS to attend annual APCG conferences. These conferences provide great opportunities for students to network and interact with professionals working in the wide variety of fields that make use of the geographic sciences.

To help make this happen, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the goal of raising \$25,000 this year. The first scholarship(s) will be awarded in Fall 2017. We feel it is important to express our thanks and appreciation to Gene now. And we sincerely hope you will join

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*Bonus Points on GISP Exam if you know what this is*



# Portable Homeland

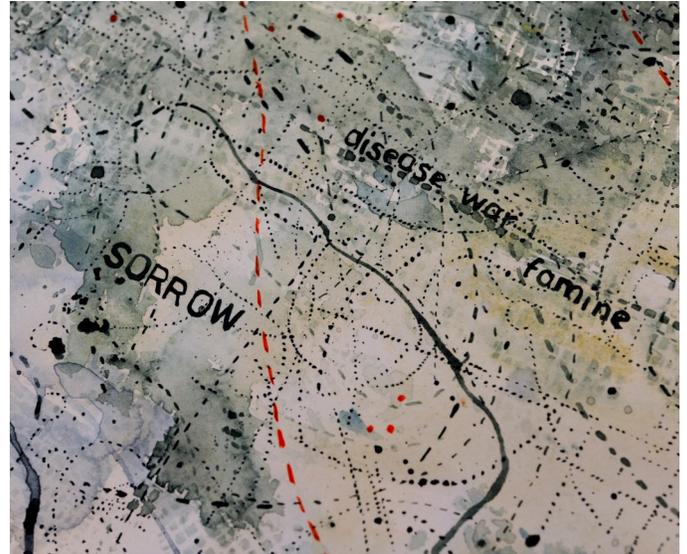
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the application of watercolor appears to ride atop the table on which it sits. It is evocative of an aerial photo from a coastal landscape, green land masses hemmed in by blue water. Most boundaries on the map are fuzzy as it is traversed by sinuous black lines that on a more traditional map might represent corridors of travel like roads or trails. At odds with, and standing seemingly out of place, are deliberate red-dashed lines that visually split the continuity of the landscape. Overlaying all of this are black painted and stenciled annotation to form a sort of hybrid work of geographic concrete poetry. A few examples are phrases such as "INFINITE LIGHT", "FAR AWAY", and "PAST" that occupy a geography on the map, a place to be sure, but are more felt than located. Leaning in finer details emerge, grid-like patterns, regular but organic. Are they city blocks or building footprints seen from above? The color blue flows throughout lending a movement to it all, leaving me uncertain what it represents - water, clouds, neither, both?

In total, there is a vastness to the details and the blank spaces. Looking on as I talked I found myself getting lost on imaginary walk-about.

When asked about how she goes about creating her art, Kessler says that her physical location influences her work but that she never sets out to imagine a physical location. She does most of her creating out of her studio

*(Continued on page 8)*



*Above — A portion of Karey Kessler's "Portable Homeland"  
Below - Artist Karey Kessler holding "Portable Homeland"  
Photo Credits: [www.corvophoto.com](http://www.corvophoto.com)*





## The Gene Hoerauf Scholarship

*(Continued from page 5)*

us in this effort to recognize and honor his dedication to all of us and his profession. Please feel free to share this information with anyone you know who has appreciated Gene's efforts.

With grateful thanks,

*Chris Behee, Janet Collins, Tim Hostetler, and Andy Ross.*

### To Make a Contribution to via Check:

Please make check payable to: "APCG" and write "Eugene Hoerauf Scholarship" in the memo line and mail to:

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### To Make a Contribution Online:

Visit—<https://apcg.wildapricot.org>, click on the donate tab, and fill out the required information and scroll to the "\$ for the Eugene Hoerauf Scholarship section and enter your desired amount. Note\* You do not have to be an APCG member to donate.

Please note: The APCG is 501(c)(3) organization (non-profit) and contributions are tax deductible. Their EIN is 93-0562597 and the official name with the IRS is Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Inc. They have been an incorporated non-profit in the State of Washington since 1962 with the official name Association of Pacific Coast Geographers.

Current undergraduate and graduate students interested in applying for the scholarship can find information at <http://apcgweb.org/grants-scholarships>

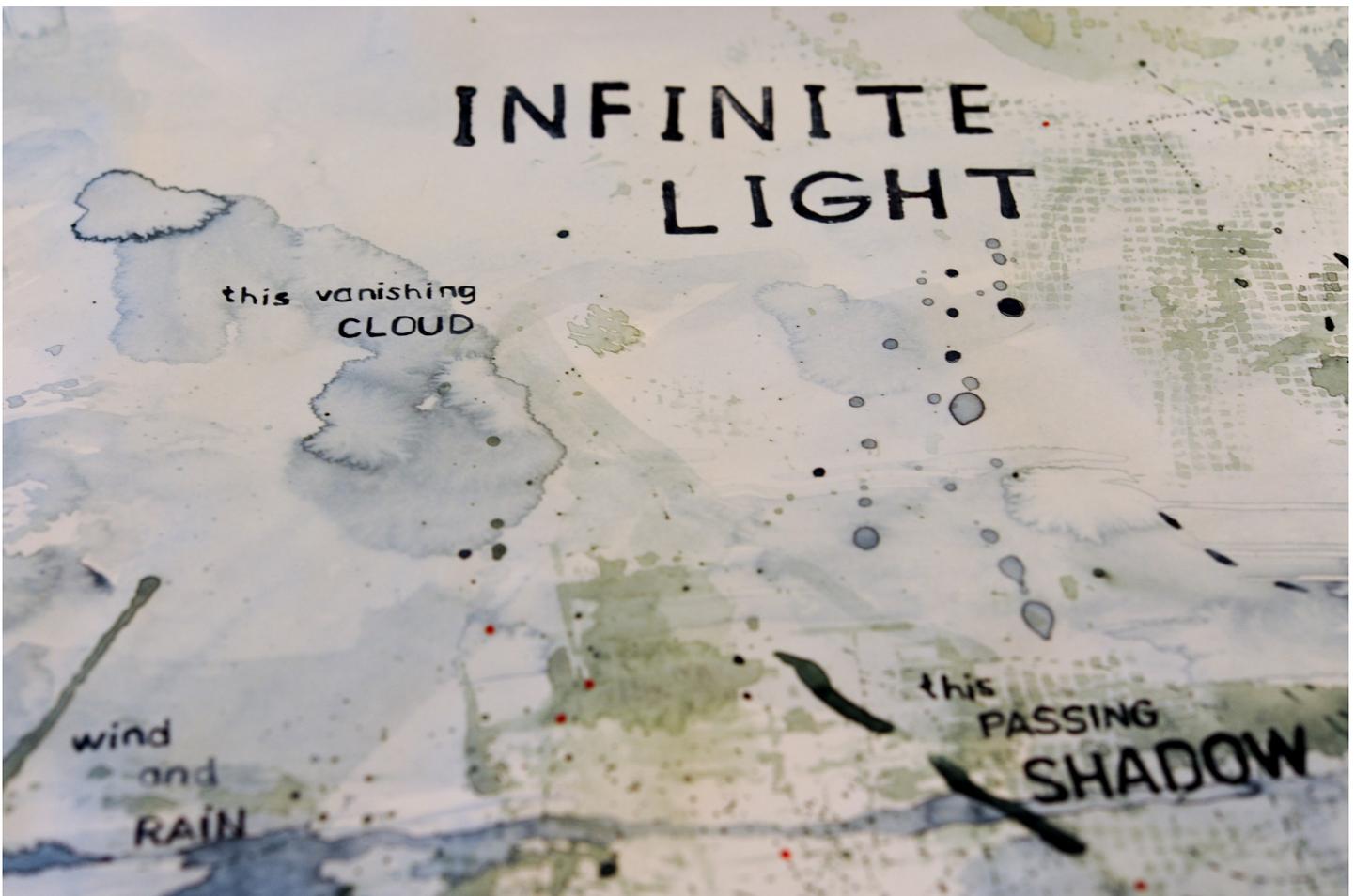
## Review of “Portable Homeland”

*(Continued from page 6)*

at Seattle’s Magnuson Park, and to anyone who’s spent time in the Northwest her choice of colors seems to reflect this. She reflected on some of her past work and explained that only with the benefit of time and distance did she realize how much her physical location influenced the outcome of her creative works. Asked about her inspiration for “Portable Homeland”, Kessler said, “This project is inspired by showing in this building [Inscape Gallery] that was used originally for Immigration & Naturalization Services.

Historically, the building was a holding space for immigrants coming into Seattle. A lot of people were held here for long periods of time. The idea of showing in this space is reflecting on that. I was invited to show here and started to think about my own family’s immigration to America over 100 years ago. I was thinking about that and reading about the building, and the definitions of inscape, and one of the definitions is interior landscape, and realized that’s what I do. For me, that’s what I would bring with me if

*(Continued on page 9)*



Close-up of “Portable Homeland” by Karey Kessler - Photo Credit: [www.corvophoto.com](http://www.corvophoto.com)

*(Continued from page 8)*

I were an immigrant now, the idea that we can bring this homeland, this place with us.”

I wondered if her work sought to inform the discussion on immigration policy, and Kessler said, “no, this work was mostly personal and not trying to make a big political statement.” Nevertheless, she went on to point out that the piece depicts the words “haven and refuge” and “was influenced by the question of could there be a shelter of peace, a refuge? Horrible things can happen, and there can still be joy and hope, even in the worst of times.”

Like viewing the graffiti written across the walls three stories above, “Portable Homeland” takes you on an undefined journey. You’re not sure exactly where you’re going, but you’re fairly certain you know where you’ve been. Depending on the lens, seeing the words “INFINITE LIGHT, SORROW, disease, war, famine, ALMOST MAJESTIC” painted across it might represent a point of origin or a destination in equal measure. Despite this uncertainty, “Portable Homeland” offers “a brief and fragile moment” to reflect on the immigrant experience and what it means to call a place home.

*“Portable Homeland” is a work in progress and Kessler plans to create another three to four feet of the map before showing it in May and June at the [A Gallery](#) in Seattle’s Pioneer Square, opening May 3rd from 5-8 PM.*

*For more information about Karey Kessler’s work or her upcoming exhibits, visit [www.kareykessler.com/](http://www.kareykessler.com/)*

*For more information about the Inscape Gallery, visit [www.inscapearts.org](http://www.inscapearts.org)*



*Kessler uncurling “Portable Homeland” - Photo Credit: [www.corvophoto.com](http://www.corvophoto.com)*



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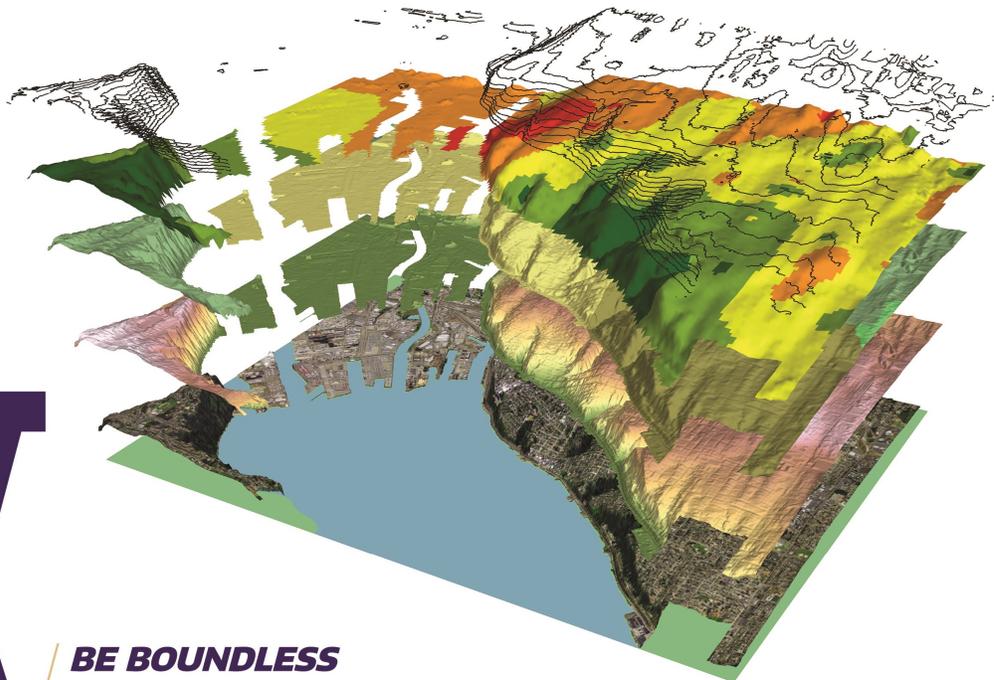
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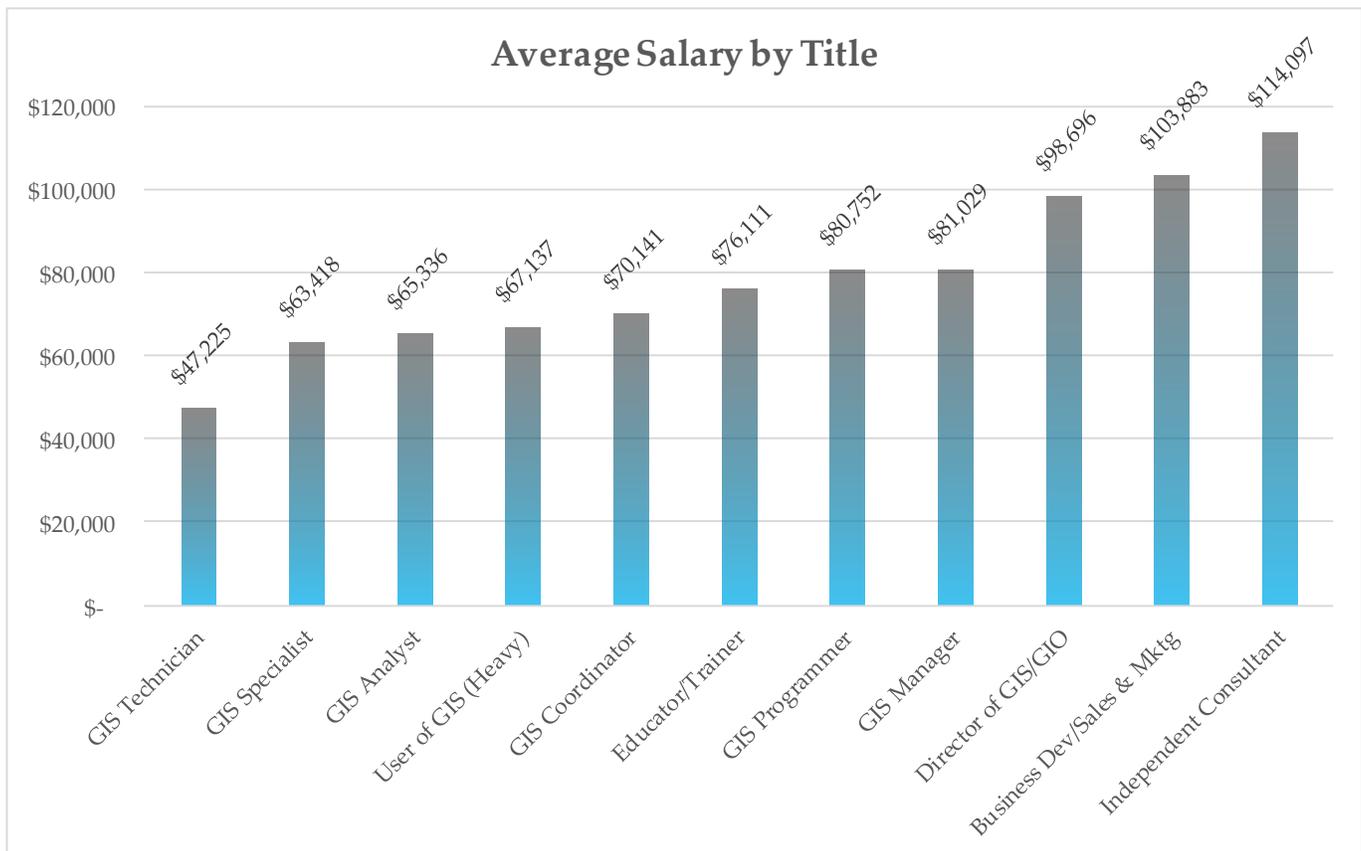
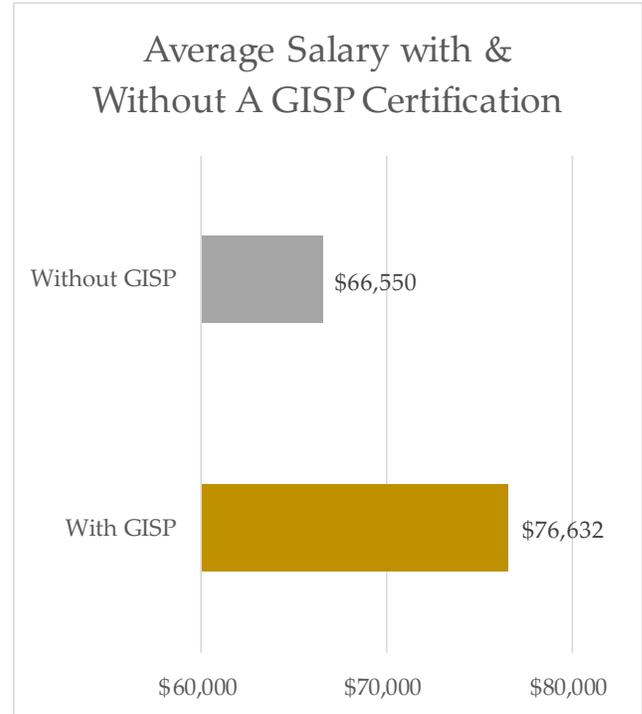
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# Preview of 2017 URISA GIS Salary Survey

Statistics Courtesy of URISA International

URISA International recently released an [executive summary of their 2017 URISA GIS Salary Survey](#). They conducted a comprehensive survey of GIS professionals to develop a better understanding of the community it serves. The primary objective of their survey was to determine specific data with regard to GIS positions and salaries. The full publication with an abundance of detailed tabular data and extensive cross-tabulations will be available for purchase in early 2018. With URISA's permission we present some of the highlights below:

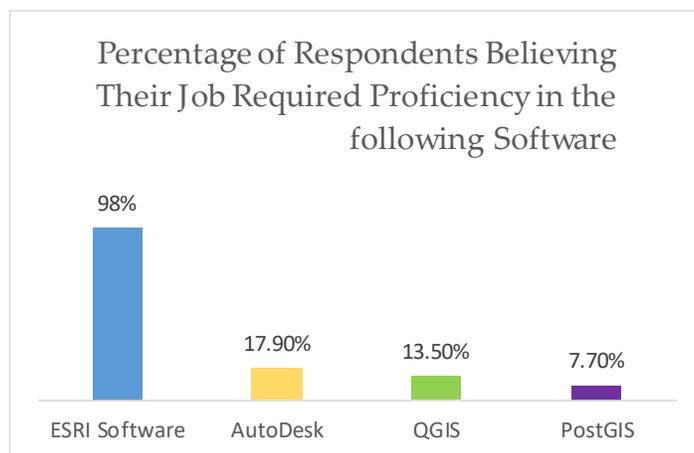
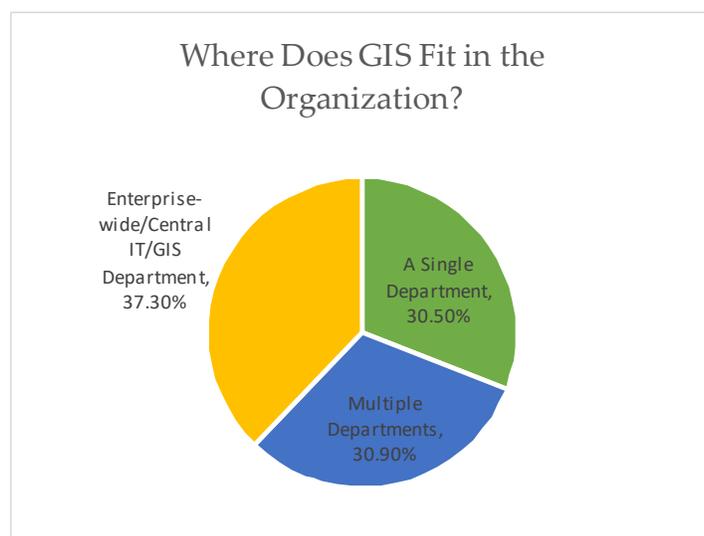
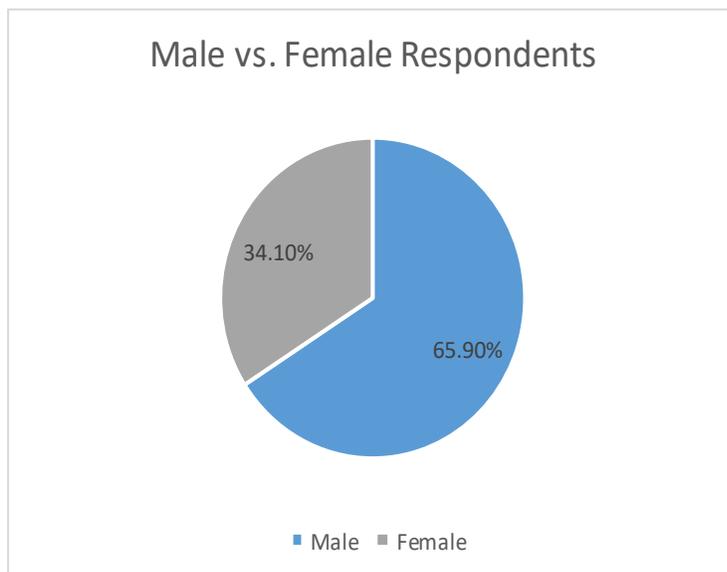
(Continued on page 12)



# 2017 URSIA GIS Salary Survey Highlights

(Continued from page 11)

- Average Salary: **\$70,857**, up **15%** from 2010
- While less than *half* GIS professionals hold a GISP, on average they earn **\$10,000/year** more than those without
- Average Workweek: **41.6 Hours**
- **62.6%** Work in an Office Environment
- **90.9%** Hold a Bachelors Degree or Higher
- **38.7%** Hold a Postgraduate Degree
- **68.8%** Believed a Bachelors Degree or Higher was Required
- **70.8%** of time spent performing geospatial tasks
- **46%** work in either GIS or IT Departments



All statistics adopted from the 2017 URSIA GIS Salary Survey Executive Summary. More information on the survey can be found at: <http://www.ursia.org/gis-salaries>. The full publication with an abundance of detailed tabular data and extensive cross-tabulations will be included in the full publication release in early 2018. That publication will be available for purchase.



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The Urban Studies Program offers a Master of Science in Geospatial Technologies (MSGT) degree. Admission is open during for Autumn quarter 2018, and graduate cohorts in the MSGT are limited to 20 students. The degree provides advanced training in GIS, including the use and application of geospatial hardware, software, and data in urban and environmental planning scenarios as well as the development and deployment of location-based mobile and web applications.

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# A Geomentoring Pilot Program – Lessons Learned

By Katie Heim, GIS Manager City of Arlington

I was introduced to the GeoMentor program by Amy Lucas who taught GIS to 6th and 8th graders at Darrington Middle School. Amy presented her work at a Snohomish County GIS Users Group meeting in October 2015. I was inspired by her presentation and signed to participate in the [AAG-Esri ConnectED GeoMentors Program](#). I also sent out a couple feeler emails to contacts I had at the local schools to see if there was any interest on their side.

Of course, once you get excited about a project, nothing happens. I didn't hear from anyone from the GeoMentor webpage or my school contacts for months! Nevertheless, at the encouragement of Arlington's Mayor, Barbara Tolbert, I participated in Weston High School's end of year STEM project and spoke briefly with the principal, William Nelson, about GIS. Will liked the idea of GIS in STEM classes and got the "globe" rolling. He scheduled a meeting with STEM teachers and myself to discuss how to use GIS in their curriculum. The World Geography teacher, Chris Hauk, was very enthusiastic and decided to try a pilot program in the spring of 2016.

Although Chris did not specifically speak GIS, he was already teaching programming, so he was able to setup ArcGIS Online

without much trouble. Chris was enthusiastic and we created a simple six week syllabus that included a brief introduction to GIS, an introduction to AGOL and concluded with a small map project where the students created a map of their neighborhood – real or imagined.

Once a week, I would show up and give a short presentation on the day's task and then the students would jump into mapping. The student maps had varying levels of details but some of the highlights were theme parks and elaborate estates. One student created an island estate but told me he didn't want a dock because he didn't want anyone to visit. Needless to say, the six weeks went smoothly.

I enjoyed getting to know the students and love teaching, so I had a wonderful time. Although it was the end of the school year, the students stayed engaged and finished their maps by the end of the program. Since Chris and I both liked how the pilot program turned out, we continued to stay in touch and are in the process of planning our next venture.

## Lessons Learned:

1. I found that signing up on the ConnectED webpage does not connect you right away. If you are interested in GeoMentoring, you have to do the legwork. You have to find a teacher who is enthusiastic and willing to let GIS into their classroom.
2. I was successful because I had the support of my boss and mayor Tolbert. The mayor supports our city GIS program and encourages the schools to make use of our GIS resources. Not every prospective mentor may have such support

*(Continued on page 17)*

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(Continued from page 16)

3. While looking for an opportunity, I suggest giving some thought to the age of the students and how long of a program you are comfortable teaching.
4. I showed up prepared to teach. Most school administrators and teachers do not know what GIS is (see lesson #1). Since you are the 'expert', you must come prepared to teach or co-teach depending on the comfort level of the teacher. Remember, it is their classroom and they know their students.
5. If you are using AGOL, give the students plenty of time to set up their profile page, especially high school students. I forgot how important that can be for that age group.
6. Bring hard copy maps, especially ones with aerial photos. Everyone loves to find their house, school, etc, and although students typically have access to Google maps, my large paper format city and aerial maps were particularly popular.
7. Highlight student interest areas in the lesson plan, not just your areas of interest. Keep it simple, and encourage them to use their own creativity. When they enjoy the work, they learn more and it's easier for everyone.

8. **Finally, have fun!**

-Katie Heim

For more information or sample curriculum from my GeoMentor experience visit

<http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/index.aspx?page=541>

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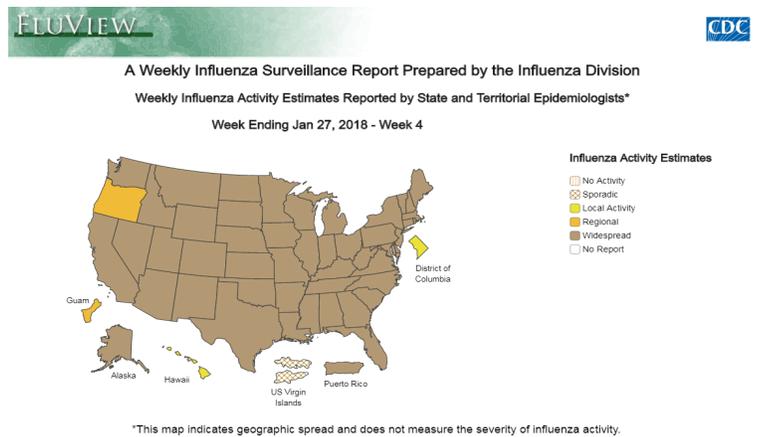


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# Call for Speakers

Artwork By: Jane Wingfield  
[www.walysketcher.com](http://www.walysketcher.com)

## Congratulations to Ann Stark, 2017 GIS Person of the Year



Congratulations to Ann Stark, Senior GIS Analyst, City of Bellingham the recipient of the 2017 Summit Award. Ann's contribution to the Washington State GIS community has been, and continues to be, outstanding and inspirational to us all. Her drive to bring GIS professionals together to develop solutions and expand knowledge and resources has helped many throughout the region. Ann exhibits professionalism on all levels. Her drive for excellence in the GIS profession along with her outreach, volunteerism (former WAURISA President), coordination, and mentoring makes her a very worthy recipient of the WAURISA's GIS Person of the year.

*Left—Ann Stark, GIS Analyst with the City of Bellingham receiving the 2017 the Summit Award plaque from (right) Don Burdick, GIS Project Manager & GIS Coordinator with the City of Bellingham.*



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## GIS User Groups in Washington

### Cascadia Users of Geospatial Open Source

[www.cugos.org](http://www.cugos.org)

Contact [Karsten Vennemann](#)

### Central Puget Sound GIS User Group

Join Listserve [here](#)

### Central Washington GIS User Group

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=8252704>

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Contact [Amanda Taub](#)

### Cowlitz-Wahkiakum GIS User Group

Meets the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm at the Cowlitz County Administration Building, general meeting room (GMR-3rd flr), 207 North 4th Ave, Kelso WA (*unless other location is announced*).

Contact [David Wallis](#)

### King County GIS User Group

[www.kingcounty.gov/operations/GIS/UserGroups.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/GIS/UserGroups.aspx)

Meets 1st Wednesday every other month at 11:00am at the KCGIS Center, 201 S. Jackson Street, Seattle WA, Conf Room 7044/7045.

### Northwest Washington GIS User Group

[www.wvu.edu/huxley/spatial/nwwgis/nwwgis\\_mtg.htm](http://www.wvu.edu/huxley/spatial/nwwgis/nwwgis_mtg.htm)

### Southeast Washington/Northwest Oregon GIS User Group

<http://gisgroup.wordpress.com>

### Washington Geographic Information Council (WAGIC)

<http://ocio.wa.gov/boards-and-committees/washington-state-geographic-information-council-wagic-0>

Join Listserve [here](#)

### Washington Hazus Users Group

<http://www.usehazus.com/wahug>

Contact [Kelly Stone](#)



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*The Summit* is the newsletter of WAURISA. To encourage the discussion of issues and ideas of importance to the Washington GIS community, we welcome letters to the editor or opinion essays. Letters should be a maximum of 250 words and essays should be limited to 500 words.

For subscriptions, content, comments, or suggestions, email:

[Summit@WAURISA.org](mailto:Summit@WAURISA.org)

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