

Becoming a GISP: The Importance of Professional Certification in the Geospatial Community

This session is designed to cover the various facets of a professional career, especially from a geospatial perspective. Included will be a discussion of certification and professional credentials in general, and the GISP specifically, and how this area can help an individual succeed early and throughout one's career. GISPs who may have questions about renewing their certification are also encouraged to attend.

The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) is a non-profit organization that promotes the advancement of proficient GIS professionals through its international GISP® (Certified GIS Professional) certification program. The Institute fosters rigorous professional and ethical standards, community engagement, and professional mentoring within the GIS industry.

Bio:

Tony Spicci has been active in the geospatial community for over 30 years. He began his professional career with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) in 1992 building a team of research specialists that included technology, geospatial, biometrics and social science professionals to conduct and support science within the Department. He recently retired from MDC and is currently the Executive Director of the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). The GISCI promotes the advancement of proficient GIS professionals through its international GISP® (Certified GIS Professional) certification program. The Institute fosters rigorous professional and ethical standards, community engagement, and professional mentoring within the GIS industry.

Tony is an active member of the Missouri GIS Advisory Committee, National States Geographic Information Council, Missouri Geographic Names Board, and a past member of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee. Tony helped lead the effort to create the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) where he serves today.

In addition to working for the GISCI, Tony is a member of Missouri Task Force 1, a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team and a volunteer with the Boone County Fire Protection District. On fall weekends he can be found on the sidelines officiating for the Father Tolton Trailblazers, the Mizzou Tigers, and the World Champion Kansas City Chiefs.

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