

*The Geographic Information Systems Consortium
Of the
Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
24 August 2009*

Dear Fellow Citizens of Pennsylvania:

The primary objectives of the Geographic Information Systems Consortium of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and Affiliates are to provide a vehicle by which the faculty of PASSHE universities, Pennsylvania private colleges and other academic institutions will be able to communicate ideas, exchange data and skills, share research dealing with all aspects of geographic information systems (GIS) and related geospatial technologies. In addition, we provide outreach to institutions and communities on the use of geographic information systems and related geo-spatial technologies. There are twenty-eight members of the Consortium from the universities of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education as well as nineteen members from affiliate universities and colleges within the Commonwealth. A full list of the members and the by-laws of the Consortium may be found at:
http://www.kutztown.edu/acad/geography/GIS%20Consortium/Consort_01index.htm

The membership of the Consortium has had an opportunity over the summer to review the **Geospatial Coordination Strategic Plan for Pennsylvania** that was completed in May 2009. Having carefully reviewed and considered the **Plan**, the membership fully endorses the **Plan** and the formation of a GIS Council. The appropriate use of GIS is critical for the economic development, infrastructure improvements and environmental protection of the resources of the Commonwealth. The formation of the GIS Council made up of individuals from private organizations, academia, and government organization will help reduce the duplication of effort, coordinate data collection, and make data more available to meet the goals of the Commonwealth to provide for the welfare of its citizens.

On behalf of the members of the Geographic Information Systems Consortium of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and its Affiliates, please accept this endorsement for the formation of the GIS Council for Pennsylvania.

Respectfully,



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