Foothill College GeoSpatial Technology Program Advisory Board Meeting

March 2, 2017 – Room 126 – Foothill College Sunnyvale Center

Attending: Allison Lenkeit Meezan (Foothill GIST), Christine Hansell (Foothill GIST), David Mederios (Stanford Libraries), Jason Eggers (City of Belmont), John Falkowski (santa Clara County Parks), Seth Hiatt (Santa Clara County Parks), Krischelle Love (San Jose Water Company), Tilly Wu (Foothill EOPS), Steve Rodriguez (City of Mountain View), Steve Golden (City of Morgan Hill), Tim Chang (City of San Jose), Jenice Wilson (student), Firrozeh Fornzan (student), Melanie Lopez (former student), Sofia Abad (Foothill CalWorks/OTI), Casey Hiatt (MidPen Open Space), Daniel Dishno (Foothill CalWorks/OTI), Leticia Serna (Foothill Counseling), Marshall Ballard (VTA), Moaty Fayek (Foothill CTE programs), Kurt Hueg (Foothill dean), Teresa Ong (Foothill DSPS/Veterans outreach)

Welcome and introductions

Program overview

- o Current students
  - Primarily pursuing certificate III
  - 12 internship students
  - Allison voiced concern that the program may be flooding market with too few Job openings

    Members contributed that

    - o Job opportunities lack full time positions
    - A lot of contract and freelance
    - Many job applicants for full time positions are already working in GIS positions in contract or part time capacity
  - Many in the group agree on an increase in job opportunities
  - Problems for current students
    - Lack of entry level jobs
    - Time commitment to program
    - Inability to intern if not currently enrolled in an undergraduate program

Feedback solicited on micro certificates

Micrcertificates are 8-12 unit focused certificates aimed at upskilling people already in the GIST workforce

- Good for current employers
  - o Give exposure to current employees about GIS
    Skills focused- JAVA, Python, Web
  - o Considerations for value include certificate achievement and salary increases
  - o Certificates and microcertificates will not always correlate to an increase in salary
  - o Good opportunity for current individuals in the work force to be exposed to GIS
  - o Students can't afford to work and study at the same time

- - Topics could include Statistics, Business Administration- and spatial database, Javascript with HTML, Web development
  - Certificate without intro classes opportunity to show competency using GIS with other skills
  - Adding cap stone projects to emphasize integration with employable skills: phython, web development, etc
- Based on the generally positive feedback, Allison stated that she would pursue the feasibility of microcertificates with the college administration. Allison noted that these small unit certificates are not currently recognized by the State Chancellor's office, and the college is in the process of deciding whether to pursue.

Feedback solicited on software to add/ remove from curriculum
- Carto DB has evolved to Carto and functionality is questionable
- ArcGis-
  - ArcGis desktop is essential
    - Concern 10.5 likely to be last desktop with ArcGis pro to replace after 10.5
    - Obstacles Arcgis pro – everyone needs a unique id Administering is the problem
- ArcCollector
- Map Box
- Google My Maps
- Cartography
  - Students should know how to make better maps in ArcGis
  - Suggestion that cartography course should be taught in ArcGis not Adobe Illustrator
  - Most participants said that they do not use Illustrator regularly
  - Consider offering course at an earlier quarter

Feedback solicited on program learning outcomes
- Update outcomes to reflect a more comprehensive needs assessment-costs, licenses, open source
- Missing- needs assessment- client contractor specific
- Effective communication visual communication
- Problem solving outside of ArcGis

Feedback solicited on top skills for entry level employees
- Critical thinking
- System analysis
- Emphasizing geography
- Data management, meta data
- Coming up with questions-observing workflow business processes
- Being able to talk through projects when presenting maps in a job interview

Feedback solicited on recruiting special populations

- The following programs were suggested for the GIST program to visit and make recruiting presentations:
    - Job corp
    - Silicon valley career technical education
    - Novas stake holders meeting- people with disabilities, adult education
- Updating pamphlet to reflect GIS analyst income in the Bay Area
- Day time offerings – offer classes during the day to capture traditional student populations
- Online offerings suggested
- Opportunity to recruit students currently in school with abundance of part time and contract work