



Join with AAG to Support Geography Education

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION developed by the Association of American Geographers (AAG) proposes the advancement of geography education with three major recommendations. This resolution has been endorsed by U.S. Secretaries of State and Defense, many governors, major national organizations and corporations, and dozens of state geographic alliances and other groups. See reverse side for a partial listing of these endorsers. We strongly urge adoption of the key goals of this resolution.

AAG Resolution Supporting K–12 Geography Education

WHEREAS, Congress is scheduled to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as “No Child Left Behind,” for the first time in almost a decade;

WHEREAS, geography is one of ten “core academic subjects” identified in the ESEA for which specific funding allocations and implementing programs are proposed to further its teaching at the K-12 level;

WHEREAS, geography education is central to preparing students to be informed citizens of the United States and economically competitive in a rapidly globalizing world;

WHEREAS, geotechnologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), GPS, photogrammetry, surveying, mapping, and remote sensing, have been identified by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the three most important emerging and evolving fields, with job opportunities growing and diversifying rapidly, creating substantial workforce growth as these technologies prove their value in ever more areas;

WHEREAS, employers in all sectors, including private companies, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have indicated that there is a pressing need for more students graduating today with the geographic science and geospatial skills needed to support a rapidly growing field;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS:

Urges the Obama Administration to include geography and geospatial education in its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and ESEA Blueprint for Reform proposals;

Urges Congress to include authorizations and appropriations for geography education consistent with other core academic subjects for K-12, as part of a reauthorized ESEA; and

Urges Congress to enhance geography teacher training by passing legislation such as the Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act.

“During my time as Secretary of State, I witnessed firsthand how important it was that Americans understood geography and the world around them. Since then, as countries have become even more interconnected, that need has grown. As a result, I support the efforts by the AAG to promote geography education in our schools, and I encourage the White House and Congress to do the same.”

— James A. Baker III
U.S. Secretary of State

“Geography played a leading role in nearly every policy decision I was involved in as Secretary of State. Young Americans with an understanding of peoples, places, and cultures have a clear advantage in today’s rapidly-changing global economy and I am encouraged that the AAG is working with Congress and the Administration to build support for geography education at the K-12 level!”

— Madeleine Albright
U.S. Secretary of State

Turn Page to **See Who Has Endorsed the AAG Resolution to Support Geography Education**

The AAG Resolution Supporting Geography Education has been endorsed or adopted by the following:

(Partial List)

U.S. Secretaries of State

The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright
Secretary of State, 1997-2001

The Honorable James A. Baker III
Secretary of State, 1989-1992

The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State, 1973-1977

The Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State, 1982-1989

U.S. Secretaries of Defense

The Honorable Harold Brown
Secretary of Defense, 1977-1981

The Honorable William S. Cohen
Secretary of Defense, 1997-2001

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense, 2006-2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense, 2011-2013

Leading Environmental Organizations

American Council On Renewable Energy:
ACORE is dedicated to building a secure and prosperous America with clean, renewable energy.

American Rivers: AR is the leading organization working to protect and restore the nation's rivers and streams.

Environmental Defense Fund: With a membership of over 700,000, EDF's mission is to preserve the natural systems on which all life depends.

The Jane Goodall Institute: JGI is a global leader in chimpanzee behavioral research and protection, community-based conservation, and youth service.

National Council for Science and the Environment: NCSE works to improve the scientific basis for environmental decisionmaking.

National Wildlife Federation: NWF promotes balanced, common-sense solutions to environmental problems that work for wildlife and people.

Ocean Conservancy: Founded in 1972, the Conservancy helps formulate ocean policy based on peer-reviewed science.

Union of Concerned Scientists: UCS focuses on using research to solve pressing environmental and social problems.

U.S. Green Building Council: USGBC promotes sustainability in buildings design and operation.

WiLDCOAST: An international team that conserves coastal and marine ecosystems and wildlife.

Major Private-Sector Supporters

AOL Inc. is committed to innovating and investing in brands that inform and connect the world.

Boeing Company is an aerospace and defense company that is the largest U.S. exporter by value.

Caterpillar Inc. designs, manufactures, markets and sells machinery and engines worldwide.

CMS Energy is a public utility supplying electric power, nuclear power, and natural gas.

Esri, Inc. develops and provides software and applications used by about 70 percent of GIS users.

FedEx Corporation is the world's largest express transportation company.

Gale International spearheaded South Korea's largest foreign real estate development project.

General Motors Company is one of the largest automakers and does business in 157 countries.

Google, Inc. specializes in internet search, cloud computing, and online advertising technologies.

John Deere (Deere & Company) is one of the largest manufacturers of agricultural machinery.

LG Electronics USA is one of the world's largest mobile and home electronics companies.

Lockheed Martin is a global aerospace, defense, security, and advanced technology company.

Microsoft Corporation develops, manufactures, licenses, and supports computing products.

National Grid USA supplies electric power and natural gas to millions of customers.

Nissan North America is focused on advanced automotive engineering and manufacturing.

Nokia Inc. is a global leader in mobile communications and over a billion people use a Nokia.

Northrop Grumman Corporation is the world's largest builder of naval vessels.

Public Service Enterprise Group is a diversified energy company with three principal subsidiaries.

Raytheon Company has core concentrations in weapons and military and commercial electronics.

SAIC provides scientific, engineering, systems integration, and technical services and solutions.

Southwest Airlines Co. carries the most domestic passengers of any U.S. airline.

Sprint Nextel Corporation controls the third-largest wireless telecom network in the United States.

Toyota Motor North America, Inc. is part of the world's largest auto manufacturer by production.

United Parcel Service, Inc. delivers more than 15 million packages a day in over 220 countries.

Verizon Communications Inc. is a telecom company that is the largest U.S. wireless carrier.

Incumbent Governors

Governor Robert Bentley, Alabama
Assumed office January 17, 2011

Governor Jan Brewer, Arizona
Assumed office January 21, 2009

Governor Sam Brownback, Kansas
Assumed office January 10, 2011

Governor Phil Bryant, Mississippi
Assumed office January 10, 2012

Governor Steve Bullock, Montana
Assumed office January 7, 2013

Governor Eddie Calvo, Guam
Assumed office January 3, 2011

Governor Lincoln Chafee, Rhode Island
Assumed office January 4, 2011

Governor Mark Dayton, Minnesota
Assumed office January 3, 2011

Governor Mary Fallin, Oklahoma
Assumed office January 10, 2011

Governor Alejandro García Padilla, Puerto Rico
Assumed office January 2, 2013

Governor Maggie Hassan, New Hampshire
Assumed office January 3, 2013

Governor Gary Herbert, Utah
Assumed office August 11, 2009

Governor Jay Inslee, Washington
Assumed office January 16, 2013

Governor John Kitzhaber, Oregon
Assumed office January 10, 2011

Governor Paul LePage, Maine
Assumed office January 5, 2011

Governor Dannel Malloy, Connecticut
Assumed office January 5, 2011

Governor Pat McCrory, North Carolina
Assumed office January 5, 2013

Governor Martin O'Malley, Maryland
Assumed office January 17, 2007

Governor Pat Quinn, Illinois
Assumed office January 29, 2009

Governor Brian Sandoval, Nevada
Assumed office January 3, 2011

Governor Rick Scott, Florida
Assumed office January 4, 2011

Governor Peter Shumlin, Vermont
Assumed office January 6, 2011

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, West Virginia
Assumed office November 15, 2010

The AAG Resolution Supporting Geography Education has been endorsed or adopted by the following:

(Partial List)

National Organizations

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping: ACSM members include over 5,000 surveyors, cartographers, geodesists, and related professionals.

American Geographical Society: AGS members work to support the need for geography.

American Geosciences Institute: AGI is a federation of geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 120,000 earth scientists.

American Meteorological Society: AMS promotes the development and dissemination of information and education on atmospheric and related sciences.

American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing: ASPRS members are professionals in geospatial technologies.

Association of American Geographers: The AAG is a scientific, research, and educational organization comprised of more than 10,000 members from colleges and universities, the private sector, and government agencies.

Cartography and Geographic Information Society: CaGIS members design, implement, and use cartography, GIS, and related technologies.

Coalition of Geospatial Organizations: Consists of 12 national geographic technology organizations.

Geographic Information Systems Certification Institute: GISCI has certified over 4,000 GIS Professionals.

Geospatial Information and Technology Association: GITA represents public and private utilities and telecom companies.

International Association of Assessing Officers: The IAAO's 8,000 members include government assessment officials.

Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors: MAPPS is a national association of firms in the surveying, spatial data, and GIS fields.

National Association of State Boards of Education: Founded in 1958, NASBE represents state and territorial boards of education.

National Association of Workforce Boards: NAWB coordinates workforce strategies with key stakeholders to ensure workforce development and job training programs meet the needs of employers.

National Council for Geographic Education: NCGE represents educators committed to enhancing the quality of geography teaching and learning.

National Geographic Society: One of the largest non-profit scientific and educational institutions in the world, NGS has been inspiring people to care about the planet since 1888.

National States Geographic Information Council: NSGIC members are GIS coordinators and managers from the U.S. states and territories.

United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation: USGIF members use geospatial intelligence to protect the U.S.

University Consortium for Geographic Information Science: UCGIS represents 70 universities involved in GIS research and education.

Urban and Regional Information Systems Association: URISA promotes the effective management of urban and regional systems.

Senior Retired Military Leaders

General Charles C. Krulak, USMC, Ret.
31st Commandant of the Marine Corps

General Joseph W. Ralston, USAF, Ret.
4th Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Henry H. Shelton, USA, Ret.
14th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Richard B. Myers, USAF, Ret.
15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Admiral James M. Loy, USCG, Ret.
21st Commandant of the Coast Guard; also, former Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security

Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., USN, Ret.
7th Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Charles F. Wald, USAF, Ret.
Former Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command

General James E. Cartwright, USMC, Ret.
8th Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Michael V. Hayden, USAF, Ret.
Former Director of the National Security Agency and Central Intelligence Agency

Admiral Gary Roughead, USN, Ret.
29th Chief of Naval Operations

Admiral Thad W. Allen, USCG, Ret.
23rd Commandant of the Coast Guard

General Kevin P. Chilton, USAF, Ret.
Former Commander, U.S. Strategic Command

Lt. General Daniel W. Christman, USA, Ret.
Former Superintendent, U.S. Military Academy

Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn, USN, Ret.
Former Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Requirements and Programs

Vice Admiral Robert Murrett, USN, Ret.
Former Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Former Senior Government Officials

The Honorable Haley Barbour
Former Governor of Mississippi

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Former Governor of New Mexico, U.S. Ambassador to UN, and U.S. Secretary of Energy

The Honorable Timothy E. Wirth
Former U.S. Senator; current President of UN Foundation & Better World Fund

