

Founder's Blog Series-Part 1

GatewayGIS: A unique community-building workforce development model

By Rosalind (Roz) Norman, DMgt

North Saint Louis has been a neglected part of the city for many decades. In June 2016, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) announced they will relocate their current campus from south Saint Louis to north Saint Louis. The Next NGA West Campus (<http://www.nextngawest.com/>) will involve a \$2 billion investment in north Saint Louis. NGA representatives also expressed an interest in workforce development of the children in this part of the city as a key priority.

This is the first part of a series to describe how GatewayGIS offers an innovative model for community engagement in support of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) inclusive of geoscience and geospatial technologies workforce development projects geared toward preschool to 12th grade students in north Saint Louis. Projects involve skilled volunteers, who work in collaboration with educators and community members, in a model based on “giving back”—giving of time, talents, and resources to young people who ordinarily would not have a chance for exposure and interactions with professional people working in geographic sciences and geospatial technologies as part of STEAM education, career development, and entrepreneurship.

In addition, the GatewayGIS model guides students through internships, college, career choices, and/or entrepreneurial opportunities.

By enlisting the “best of the best” collaborators from academia, government, industry, and nonprofit organizations, GatewayGIS aims to develop a “Community of Best Practices” as the framework for a workforce development pipeline. The pipeline consists of a tripartite or three-part model. It covers year-round daytime, after-school, and weekend projects immersed in STEAM, geoscience, and geospatial technologies for students, their parents/families, their teachers, and their school administrators in collaboration with a culturally competent leadership team and diverse community partners.

Since inception, GatewayGIS engages volunteers from local, national, and international organizations. Skilled volunteers serve as speakers, workshop facilitators, mentors, role models, tutors, internship providers, program coordinators, researchers, and in some cases, sponsors of activities for student participants and their teachers. Special thanks to volunteers of these participating organizations:

- 90 Degrees West Media Productions
- Archaeological Research Center of St. Louis, Inc.
- Bayer: St. Louis STEM Education Outreach Program
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater St. Louis

- CEdge Software Consultants
- Clyde C. Miller Career Academy High School
- Code for America St. Louis Chapter/OpenSTL
- COLLAB at Cortex CIC Innovation Hall
- Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM)
- Countering Wildlife Trafficking Institute (CWTI)
- Creative Technology Educational Group
- Dimensions
- East St. Louis School District 189 GEAR UP Program
- Esri
- GeoMentors
- Good Life Growing LLC/Justine Petersen Greencubator
- GoodVoice STL
- Harris-Stowe State University: The St. Louis Black Radio Hall of Fame and the Wolff Jazz Institute
- ITEN (Information Technology Entrepreneur Network)
- Kleck
- Microsoft Tech Center in the Cortex Innovation Community
- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Missouri Historical Society/Missouri History Museum
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration Goddard Space Flight Center
- National Blues Museum
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency: Partners in Education Program
- Nine PBS (KETC/Channel 9)-Nine Network of Public Media: American Graduate
- Pulitzer Arts Foundation: The Monument Lab
- Rise Community Development: St. Louis Place & JeffVanderLou Neighborhood Resource Guide
- Saint Louis Priory School
- Saint Louis Public Schools
- Saint Louis Science Center Youth Exploring Science (YES) Program
- Saint Louis University: Geospatial Institute
- St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO)
- St. Louis Development Corporation-Project Connect
- St. Louis Regional STEM Learning Ecosystem (STEMSTL)
- The Boeing Company: Student Career Development Program
- The Catherine Manley Gaylord Foundation
- T-REX Geosaurus Geospatial Resource & Innovation Center
- United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation: St. Louis Area Working Group
- University of Missouri-St. Louis: History Department of Museum Studies and Community History, and Information Systems and Technology Department
- Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc.
- Viasat
- Washington University in St. Louis

- Webster University
- Xeo Air Inc.: Airversity Drone Pilot Academy

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