



For Immediate Release
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EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, CITIZENS SOUGHT FOR INTERNATIONAL GIS DAY PROGRAM

In a world and economy where progress is driven by technology, acquiring a knowledge of computers and technological applications is vital for people of all ages. Geographic information systems, or GIS, is a quickly expanding technological field with endless applications in almost any industry. In an effort to promote new technologies and expand the minds of Louisiana's citizens of all ages, two educational GIS activities will be made available at no charge on Nov. 16 at the Main Library on Goodwood Boulevard. This incredible opportunity has been made possible by a consortium of the City of Baton Rouge, the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, and two Baton Rouge based non-profits: Louisiana Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (LARSGIS) Institute and Baton Rouge Green.

From 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Nov. 16, students from East Baton Rouge Parish schools will participate and learn about mapping in a fun-filled, educational environment. The LA RS and GIS Institute is seeking interested educators to enroll and plan the field trip far in advance. The Institute hopes to have 180 students participate in this engaging multidisciplinary program that includes hands-on computer and outdoor activities.

That afternoon from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m., adults of all ages and backgrounds are also invited to attend, whether for professional advancement or simply out of interest in this fascinating technology. The afternoon event is open and free to the public.

"This is the 18th Annual International GIS Day, and we're excited to have two participating events right here in Baton Rouge," said Fran Harvey, founder of the Institute. "A 17-year-old who learns the links between mapping and microenterprise may be the next Bill Gates. An adult who learns how mapping using GIS works - and how it is applied - will not only expand his or her horizons but perhaps gain vital professional enhancement. We're here to create those possibilities."

A special guest in attendance will be Alyssa Carson, a Baton Rouge native who is 15 years old and is both an astronaut in training and a Mars One Ambassador.

The GIS Day program is free, and educators wishing to learn more should contact Warren Kron at GIS@BRgov.com or call the Institute at 225-939-1091. Interested participants can also register online at www.gisdaylouisiana.com. Space is limited.

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