June 2017

**New Program for Students Interested in Mapping, Spatial Technologies, Geographic Information Systems, and Geospatial Sciences Starting this Fall!**

NC State University’s Center for Geospatial Analytics, the Wade Edwards Learning Lab, and RTI International are excited to offer a new after-school Hi Tech Teens program in geospatial sciences and geographic information systems (GIS) for high school students and need your help to spread the word among potential applicants!

The program –– called **GAPS (Geospatial Analytics for Problem Solving) for Hi-Tech Teens** –– is supported by a three-year grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Foundation Student Science Enrichment Program and, starting in Fall 2017, will provide a unique hands-on learning experience designed around an eight-week cohort and will be offered in both the Fall and Spring, along with a 1-week summer program focused on career and college preparedness in the field of geospatial sciences and related areas.

GAPS will support numerous common core standards while introducing students to geospatial science, geographic information systems (GIS), and advanced geovisualization technologies. The Department of Labor has identified geospatial technology as one of the fastest growing career fields across a broad spectrum of industry applications, with an urgent need for skilled trained professionals.

The goal of GAPS is to (1) engage students in community-focused decision-making and problem-solving, (2) increase students’ capacity for creating and working with advanced geospatial technologies, and (3) expose students to GIS- and STEM-related college programs and careers. In addition to **project-based learning experiences**, GAPS students will receive **mentorship from graduate and undergraduate students at NC State** **and geospatial professionals**, **optional tutoring in math and science**, **opportunities to visit the dynamic Geovisualization Lab at NC State**, and a $100 stipend for program completion.

We seek students who show an aptitude or interest in science as well as those with great promise. We particularly strive to recruit female applicants and students of color who remain underrepresented in STEM fields. We are committed to 60% of program participants coming from under-served and under-resourced populations. We will begin recruitment soon, with an application due date for our first group of students set for early September. **We will also be hosting an open house for Wake County educators at the NC State Geovisualization Lab on <insert date here>** to discuss the program in more detail. You can also read more on the program website <http://gaps.cnr.ncsu.edu>

**We need your help!** Can you identify students (grades 9-12) from your school that should be encouraged to apply? Who could use a program like this to get the support and skills they need to strive for a STEM career? We will contact your school again in December and January, offering to speak to classes and to provide program information and applications. But we know that a personal suggestion from you will go a long way to encourage potential participants!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Eric Money (esmoney@ncsu.edu) or Betsey McFarland (bmcfarland@wade.org). Thank you in advance for your support. We can’t wait to get this program started!

Eric S. Money Betsey A. McFarland

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NC State University Wade Edwards Learning Lab