



Industry-Based Certification Council Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2026

10:00 AM

LA Works

1001 North 23rd Street
4th Floor Conference Room
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

I. Call to order

- a. Chairman Mike Palamone called the regular meeting of the Industry-Based Certification Committee (IBCC) to order at 10:02 AM.

II. Roll call

- a. WIC Director Kaffia Arvie conducted the roll call:

Number in attendance: 14		Quorum Obtained yes	
X	Member	X	Designee
X	IBCC Chairman Mike Palamone		
X	Secretary Susie Schowen		
X	WIC Chairman David Helveston		
X	Austin Lewis		
X	Renee Amar		
	Dr. Missy Hopson	X	Quentin Bradley
X	Gary Warren		
X	Brandon Smith		
X	David St. Etienne		
	Dr. Chandler LeBoeuf		
X	Louis Reine		
X	Dr. Ernise Singleton		
	Dr. Lisa Vosper		
X	Jacquelyn Craddock		
X	Thomas Jones		

III. Review and approval of previous minutes (June 4, 2026)

- a. Motion by Louis Reine
- b. Second by Thomas Jones



IV. IBC Application Review and Approval

- a. GIS Career Pathway Bundle – Global Geospatial Institute
 - Motion to approve by David Helveston
 - Second by Louis Reine
 - 1. All Passed

V. Discussion of the IBC Scrub Process

- a. Accountability has changed, the basic bundles will still exist. It is now kept by LDOE as it can put one on a pathway, but not all the way to making an affordable wage.
- b. WIC Director, Kaffia Arvie mentioned, IBCs are to be reviewed every 3 years, but this process hasn't been done in a while; therefore, it is time to complete that process.
- c. LAWorks staff to reach out to stakeholders to get their opinions on which IBC they believe should stay or be removed from the list.
- d. It was decided not to do a blanket removal, but to remove credential by credential.
 - A subcommittee will be formed to be able to go on to the list to evaluate and begin the process.
 - Meeting to be scheduled by October 2026 consisting of IBCC Chairman, Secretary Schowen and a few others to move forward with the scrub process.

VI. Discussion of Modernizing the IBC Application Process

- a. Discussion led by Assistant Secretary Jessica Vallelungo
 - As a council, we are moving away from the rubric. Therefore it was asked what are some questions or what is information that the council will want to see on the application.
 - 1. How much will it cost to the student directly?
 - 2. Who will maintain the relevance of the credentials?
 - 3. Is this available locally or statewide?
 - 4. Which specific employer has been apart of the process to create the credential?
 - 5. What is the process of one to teach the information
- b. The council was reminded that when considering IBCs we now have to move from K-12 and focus on that fact that anyone can obtain a credential if they follow the progression of the certification process.
- c. The IBC Council requested that a draft of the potential new application is provided by September 2026.



VII. Other Business

- a. Secretary Schowen advised the Council that they have received an email and word that the waivers that were submitted to the Federal Government to Department of Labor were approved. Additional information will be given once all information received.
- b. IBCC Chairman Mike Palamone, asked for Chairman privilege and mentioned that for the IBC meetings, if there can be a time limit on the person presenting. Also mentioned that presenters are no longer allowed to use zoom or virtual option. They must come into the meeting in person. The council all agreed.

VIII. Public Comment

- a. NONE

IX. Adjournment

- a. Louis Reine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Secretary Susie Schowen seconded the motion. Chairman Palamone adjourned the meeting at 11:56 am.



IBC COUNCIL MEETING

LA WORKS – 4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

August 6, 2026



IBC REVIEW AND APPROVAL

GIS Career Pathway Bundle – Global Geospatial Institute



DISCUSSION OF THE IBC SCRUB PROCESS



DISCUSSION ON MODERNIZING THE IBC APPLICATION PROCESS



OTHER BUSINESS



PUBLIC COMMENTS

SAVE THE DATES

WIC MEETING

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

10:00 AM

**Bossier City Community College
LA Tech Student Success Center
6220 East Texas Street
Bldg H-4th Floor
Bossier City, LA 71111**

IBC COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, October 1, 2026

10:00 AM

**Louisiana Works
1001 North 23rd Street
4th Floor Conference Room
Baton Rouge, LA 70802**





THANK YOU

1001 North 23rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802
LAWWORKS.NET

Industry-Based Certification Council

August 2026 IBC Review
Member Summary Sheets

GIS Career Pathway Bundle

Global Geospatial Institute (GGI)

Bundle Includes:

GIS Entry Level Technician
GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS
GIS Drones to Smart Maps

IBC SUMMARY SHEET

GIS Career Pathway Bundle — Global Geospatial Institute (GGI)

IBC Name	GIS Career Pathway Bundle 1. GIS Entry Level Technician 2. GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS 3. GIS Drones to Smart Maps
Submitting Organization	Global Geospatial Institute (GGI)
Certifying Agency	Global Geospatial Institute (GGI) with ESRI
Industry Sector	Geospatial Technology / Information Technology Support / UAS-Drone Services (Transportation, Coastal, Energy)
Career Cluster	Information Technology (GIS Entry Level Technician, GIS 101); Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — STEM (GIS Drones to Smart Maps).
Bundle / Standalone	Bundle Includes (presented in intended pathway sequence): 1. GIS Entry Level Technician — Renewal, Basic to Advanced reclassification 2. GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS — Initial Approval 3. GIS Drones to Smart Maps — Initial Approval

Occupations and Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Connection:

The bundle presents a continuous, ascending wage ladder across all three tiers. Entry-tier roles range from Mapping Aide/GIS Support Technician and GIS Technician/GIS Assistant (\$35,000-\$53,000). Employer letters tie specific entry-level openings to this tier: Survey Technician / Mapping Data Specialist (Riverlands Surveying), GIS Technician / Planning Analyst Assistant (CSRS), and GIS Technician / Engineering Support Analyst (St. John the Baptist Parish Planning and Zoning). Riverlands Surveying, CSRS, St. John the Baptist Parish, and Waggoner Engineering each cite specific current or anticipated openings.

Certification Testing

Credential Quality:

All three assessments share a common security infrastructure: approved proctor, randomized proprietary question banks, 24-hour access-code expiration, and identity verification. The technical scope increases at each level. The GIS Entry Level Technician credential is the only documented third-party postsecondary validation in the bundle, and the LCTC System Board of Supervisors formally approved it as a system-recognized non-credit program on April 8, 2026 (Geographic Information System - Entry Level Technician Certification, CIP 45.0702). For GIS 101 and GIS Drones to Smart Maps, all assessments remain multiple-choice, with no hands-on or performance-based components.

Letters of Support and Employer Engagement

Employer Engagement:

Five Louisiana employer letters support the bundle: Riverlands Surveying, CSRS, St. John the Baptist Parish Planning and Zoning, and Waggoner Engineering appear across all three credentials, with Fenstermaker. Each letter names credential-specific role titles and position counts (one to four positions per employer) and states hiring preference for certificate holders. Because the same four employers support Labor Market Connection, Work-Based Learning, and Employer Engagement scoring at every tier, staff confirmed that the underlying letters describe distinct, specific roles and duties rather than a single generic letter applied three times.

Additional Pertinent Information

Industry & Pathway Alignment

Geospatial technology and UAS-drone services align with Louisiana Economic Development growth sectors in coastal restoration, transportation, and energy infrastructure. Global Geospatial Institute (GGI) is both the submitting organization and the certifying agency

Work-Based Learning

Four employer letters describe workplace-experience commitments applied consistently across all three tiers of the pathway: apprenticeship-style training and mentorship from licensed surveyors (Riverlands Surveying), internships supporting planning and site-assessment work (CSRS, St. John the Baptist Parish), and internships on active engineering projects (Waggoner Engineering). No registered apprenticeship or formal pre-apprenticeship infrastructure is documented.

Postsecondary Continuity

The GIS Entry Level Technician credential carries confirmation from the LCTC System Board of Supervisors as a system-recognized non-credit program (April 8, 2026, CIP 45.0702).

Career Progression & Outcomes

The bundle demonstrates a genuine stacked wage and skill progression: entry-level roles in the \$35,000-\$53,000 range lead to intermediate roles in a similar band. This continuity across tiers supports treating the three credentials as a single intended pathway rather than three unrelated applications.

Scalability

GIS Entry Level Technician and GIS 101 operate on a virtual-delivery model available statewide through Southeastern Louisiana University's LA GEAR UP program, requiring only a standard classroom with computer access. GIS Drones to Smart Maps has more limited scalability at present: expansion to Alexandria, Shreveport, and New Orleans is planned but not yet operational, reflecting the additional equipment and field-training requirements of UAS instruction.

Note: Letters of support and IBC application forms for GIS Entry Level Technician, GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS, and GIS Drones to Smart Maps follow this summary sheet.

LOUISIANA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL
INDUSTRY-BASED CERTIFICATION (IBC)
APPLICATION

GIS ENTRY LEVEL TECHNICIAN

GIS Entry Level Technician

*Course Code: 010103 | Proposed Credential Level: Advanced Statewide Credential
(upgrade from Basic)*

SECTION A — BASIC INFORMATION

1. Submitting Organization

Global Geospatial Institute (GGI)

2. IBC Title

GIS Entry Level Technician

3. Certifying / Accrediting Agency

Name of Certifying Agency	Address	Contact Person	Phone No.
Global Geospatial Institute	8000 Innovation Park Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70820	Fran Harvey, GISP	225-939-1091

4. Educational Partner Agency / School / District

Name of Educational Partner	Address	Contact Person	Phone No.
St. Charles Parish Public Schools	13855 River Rd, Luling, LA 70070	District CTE Coordinator	985-785-6289
St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools	118 W 10th St, Reserve, LA 70084	District CTE Coordinator	985-536-1135
University View Academy	3113 Valley Creek Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70808	Dr. Quentina Timoll, Superintendent	225-421-2900

5. Geographic Area of Certification

State of Louisiana

SECTION B — WORKFORCE DEMAND

6. Explanation of Workforce Demand for IBC [max 2,400 characters]

Geospatial technology is used across every Louisiana industry, and Louisiana employers demonstrate immediate, measurable demand for workers with transferable, platform-agnostic GIS skills. Numerous GIS-related positions are currently posted in Louisiana (Indeed, 2025) in engineering, energy, transportation, environmental services, emergency management, government, and agriculture. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (“BLS”) reports a national median salary of \$51,940 per year for Surveying and Mapping Technicians (May 2024), with 5% projected growth through 2034 and approximately 7,600 annual openings.

Louisiana state projections show this occupation growing from 1,046 to 1,090 positions by 2032, with a state median wage of \$21.70 per hour (\$45,139 per year). Civil Engineering Technologists command an even higher state median of \$24.95 per hour (\$51,896 per year). Employers actively recruiting geospatial technicians include DOTD, CPRA, CenterPoint Energy, CLECO, engineering firms, and environmental consulting companies. Pipeline, CO2 sequestration, solar, and coastal restoration projects throughout Louisiana all require skilled geospatial workers. Recognizing this demand, the LaSTEM Advisory Council identified a need to triple the state's skilled coding and technical professionals within five years.

GGI's Entry Level IBC has been an approved Louisiana IBC since 2019 and was placed in all LDOE Jump Start 2.0 Pathways in 2020. Three substantive changes since the original Basic approval support reclassification to Advanced: (1) Expanded course materials – the curriculum now includes geodatabase design, geoprocessing, geocoding, and 3D/network analysis, advanced competencies beyond the original map-production scope; (2) Strengthened assessment – the exam is now an 80-question, randomized, independently proctored exam with 24-hour code expiration, and instructors must pass it before teaching; and (3) Grown industry need – Louisiana technology jobs are growing at three times the national rate (LED), and CO2 sequestration, coastal restoration, and broadband projects have expanded employer demand since 2019. The credential now anchors the middle tier of GGI's three-tier pathway, following GIS 101 and preceding Drones to Smart Maps

SECTION C — STAR JOBS OCCUPATIONS

7. List of Occupations with 3, 4 or 5 Star Jobs Ratings [min 3, max 5]

#	Occupation	Stars	Est. Annual LA Demand	Wage (Low)	Wage (High)
1	Surveying & Mapping Technicians	4 ★	44	Entry level: \$14.66/hr	Typical: \$18.08 Experienced: \$29.23/hr
2	Civil Engineering Technologists & Technicians	4 ★	67	Entry level \$14/hr	Typical: \$29.60/hr. Experienced: \$76.67/hr.
3	Environmental Engineering Technologists	4 ★	30	\$14.43/hr	Typical: \$29.21/hr Experienced: \$47/hr,
4	Industrial Engineering Technicians	4 ★	10	\$15.31/hr	Experienced: \$40.55/hr

Career pathway: Students earning this credential can be hired directly as Surveying & Mapping Technicians or GIS Technicians (entry-level), advance to GIS Specialist or GIS Analyst (mid-level), and with additional education or licensure may progress to GIS Manager, or Licensed Surveyor.

SECTION D — EMPLOYER SUPPORT

8. Louisiana Employer Support [minimum 3, maximum 5]

△ Letters of support on company letterhead must be emailed to ibccouncil@la.gov with the application Confirmation Number. Each letter must address: (1) workplace experience opportunities for students, and (2) hiring preference for graduates with this certification.

#	Name of Employer / Association	Address	Contact Person	Phone No.
1	St. John the Baptist Parish Planning & Zoning	1811 W Airline Hwy, Laplace, LA 70068	Rebecca Hymel, GIS Administrator	985-359-0905
2	Riverlands Surveying Company	505 Hemlock St, Laplace, LA 70068	Stephen P.Flynn, Professional Land Surveyor and the co-founder	985-652-6356
3	C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC	135 Regency Square, Lafayette, LA 70508	Kathryn Fenstermaker, Corp. Communications	337-237-2200
4	Waggoner Engineering	10305 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816	Miles Williams, P.E., Sr. Vice President, Transportation Leader	225-938-1529
5	CSRS, a Westwood Company	8555 United Plaza Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70809	Matthew Martinec, Director, Planning & Government Advisory	512 431-7089

SECTION E — BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

a. Curriculum to be used for training purposes:

Covers map design, geospatial outputs, geodatabases, spatial data management, geoprocessing, digitizing, geocoding, spatial and 3D/network analysis. Certifies transferable GIS competencies across platforms. Instructor-led, Code 010103,1 Carnegie Unit.

b. Is the curriculum or training material duplicated in another training field?

GGI's Entry Level curriculum integrates desktop GIS software, spatial analysis & geodatabase management to a single Advanced credential which is mastery of a complete technical skill. Competencies taught aren't duplicated in any Louisiana CTE program

c. Facilities currently offering training or where training could be implemented:

Hahnville HS and Destrehan HS (St. Charles Parish); St. John STEM Magnet HS and East St. John HS; University View Academy (Baton Rouge). Can also be delivered virtually through Southeastern LA University's statewide LA GEAR UP program.

d. Upon completion of training and certification, what is the next step in continuing training/education?

GIS Entry Level IBC is tier two of GGI's pathways, following GIS 101 and leading Drones to Smart Maps. Its Advanced upgrade reflects GIS mastery, qualifying students for jobs, dual enrollment, or degree credit. GISP is the long-term milestone

e. What is the minimum length of time required to complete the training?

One semester (120 hours / 1 Carnegie Unit), Course Code 010103. Can be delivered in one or two semesters depending on class period length. Students must have completed Freshman English and Algebra prior to sitting for the certification exam.

f. What type of certification testing and/or assessment is included with the training?

Students need 70%+ in the course to qualify for the IBC exam. Online proctored exam: 80 multiple-choice questions (some with images), 2-hour limit, electronically graded.

g. What are the safeguards for test validity to protect the certification standards?

GGI is the sole authorized scheduler of testing. A GGI-approved proctor (not the teacher) administers the exam. Questions are randomized and proprietary. Codes expire 24 hrs post-activation. Teachers must pass first.

h. Does the assessment include written exams, hands-on applications, and/or performance measures?

Computer-based: 80 multiple-choice questions, some with images. Tests advanced, transferable GIS competencies spatial software, map design, geodatabase management, geoprocessing, geocoding, spatial analysis mirroring skills Louisiana employers need.

i. Does work experience also qualify for this certification?

Certification is based on successful completion of the GGI exam following the course. Individuals with prior GIS or military mapping experience would still complete the certification exam; prior experience may reduce preparation time.

j. Explain career advancement upon completion of training and obtaining certification:

GIS Entry Level IBC qualifies students for GIS Technician and GIS Assistant roles (\$40-53k/yr). Career ladder leads to GIS Specialist, GIS Analyst (\$65-76k/yr), GIS Manager (\$96k/yr).

k. Are there additional training opportunities beyond the training affiliated with this IBC?

Additional training is available via Registered Apprenticeships (LA Works), university GIS programs statewide and nationally, and online industry training resources. GIS Drones to Smart Maps is the direct next-level course.

l. Are continuing education, dual enrollment, articulated credit, and/or career ladder opportunities affiliated with this IBC?

GGI is developing dual enrollment and articulated credit pathways and is approved under LCTCS. Career ladder progresses from GIS Technician to GIS Manager to GISP. Software certifications provide milestones at every career stage.

m. What is the cost for the training and certification and what resources do employers provide in support?

Training: \$1,100/student. Exam: \$225/student (AEST invoice, paid prior to exam). GGI is an approved LDOE Supplemental Course Academy provider. Perkins and CDF funding are eligible. Employer resources vary and are described in letters of support.

n. What is the recertification process for an individual's credentials to remain current/active?

The GIS Entry Level IBC does not expire. Students can build further credentials via GIS Drones to Smart Maps and advanced software certifications. Professional milestone: GISP from GISCI, requiring education, experience, and contributions

SECTION F — SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Your Name: Fran Harvey, GISP

Your Phone: 225-939-1091

Your Email: fharvey@gginstitute.org

Your FAX: N/A

LOUISIANA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL
**INDUSTRY-BASED CERTIFICATION (IBC)
APPLICATION**

GIS 101: INTRODUCTION TO WEB GIS

GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS

Course Code: 010105 | Proposed Credential Level: Advanced Statewide

1. Submitting Organization

Global Geospatial Institute (GGI)

2. IBC Title

GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS

3. Certifying / Accrediting Agency

Name of Certifying Agency	Address	Contact Person	Phone No.
Global Geospatial Institute	8000 Innovation Park Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70820	Fran Harvey, GISP	225-939-1091

4. Educational Partner Agency / School / District

Name of Educational Partner	Address	Contact Person	Phone No.
St. Charles Parish Public Schools	13855 River Rd, Luling, LA 70070	District CTE Coordinator	985-785-6289
St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools	118 W 10th St, Reserve, LA 70084	District CTE Coordinator	985-536-1135
University View Academy	3113 Valley Creek Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70808	Dr. Quentina Timoll, Superintendent	225-421-2900

5. Geographic Area of Certification

State of Louisiana

SECTION B — WORKFORCE DEMAND

6. Explanation of Workforce Demand for IBC [max 2,400 characters]

Louisiana's 2025 Workforce Development Report confirms growth in infrastructure, construction, transportation, utilities, coastal development, engineering, and technical services — all requiring entry-level geospatial support. "Louisiana's technology job growth is occurring at three times the national average" Louisiana Economic Development (opportunitylouisiana.gov/key-industry/technology) O*NET designates GIS Technologists and Technicians as Bright Outlook. The Bureau of Labor Statistics ("BLS") reports Surveying and Mapping Technicians earned a national median of \$51,940/yr (May 2024), with 5% projected growth through 2034 and ~7,600 annual openings.¹

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dep't of Labor, *Surveying and Mapping Technicians*, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/surveying-and-mapping-technicians.htm> (last visited May 26, 2026).

Louisiana state projections show this occupation growing from 1,046 to 1,090 by 2032 at a state median of \$21.70/hr (\$45,139/yr). Numerous geospatial-related positions are currently available across in Louisiana, in cities throughout the state. The global geospatial market is projected to reach \$681 billion by 2030 due to the increase in needs in industries that directly impact Louisiana. Indeed, Louisiana’s Department of Transportation and Development (“DOTD”) uses location-based technology for road basemap maintenance, construction monitoring, and emergency response which requires the use of GIS; further the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (“CPRA”) (\$1.7B annual budget) relies on geospatial tools for coastal restoration planning and development; and finally, Louisiana pipeline, CO2 sequestration, solar energy, and broadband deployment projects all require location-based data workflows. GIS 101 prepares students for roles in these industries, including web mapping, field data collection, spatial database maintenance, and basic analysis — transferable, platform-agnostic skills directly applicable to Louisiana's highest-demand industries. LDOE recognized this need when it placed GGI's GIS Entry Level IBC in all Jump Start 2.0 Pathways in 2020; GIS 101 serves as the foundational prerequisite, ensuring students develop have the digital literacy required to succeed.

SECTION C — STAR JOBS OCCUPATIONS

7. List of Occupations with 3, 4 or 5 Star Jobs Ratings [min 3, max 5]

#	Occupation	Stars	Est. Annual LA Demand	Wage (Low)	Wage (High)
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3	Environmental Engineering Technologists	4 ★	30	\$14.43/hr	Typical: \$29.21/hr Experienced: \$47/hr,
4	Industrial Engineering Technicians	4 ★	10	\$15.31/hr	Experienced: \$40.55/hr

Career pathway: Students earning this credential can be hired directly as Mapping Aides, GIS Support Technicians, or Surveying & Mapping Technicians (entry-level), advance to GIS Technician or GIS Analyst (mid-level), and with additional education or licensure may progress to Surveyor, or Cartographer.

SECTION D — EMPLOYER SUPPORT

8. Louisiana Employer Support [minimum 3, maximum 5]

△ Letters of support on company letterhead must be emailed to ibccouncil@la.gov with the application Confirmation Number. Each letter must address: (1) workplace experience opportunities for students, and (2) hiring preference for graduates with this certification.

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5	CSRS, a Westwood Company	8555 United Plaza Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70809	Matthew Martinec, Director, Planning & Government Advisory	512 431-7089

SECTION E — BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

a. Curriculum to be used for training purposes: Character Count: **(Max 250, remaining 250.**

Instructor-led, community-based semester course covering GIS overview, data management, web mapping, field data, story maps, app development, and real-time visualization. Certifies transferable GIS skills across platforms.

b. Is the curriculum or training materials duplicated in another training field? **Character Count:(Max 250, remaining 250.**

This curriculum uniquely integrates cloud-based location technology, geospatial coding, mobile data collection, and digital storytelling. Competencies taught are platform-agnostic and not duplicated in any Louisiana CTE offering.

**c. Facilities currently offering training or where training could be implemented:
Character Count: (Max 250, remaining 250.**

Hahnville HS and Destrehan HS (St. Charles Parish); St. John STEM Magnet HS and East St. John HS; University View Academy (Baton Rouge). Can also be delivered virtually through Southeastern LA University's statewide LA GEAR UP program.

d. Upon completion of training and certification, what is the next step in continuing training/education? (Max 250, remaining 250.

Students advance to GIS Entry Level IBC and then GIS Drones to Smart Maps — forming a three-tier high school GIS pathway. Students may also pursue postsecondary dual enrollment or enter the workforce directly in entry-level geospatial support roles.

e. What is the minimum length of time required to complete the training? (Max 250, remaining 250.

One semester (120 hours / 1 Carnegie Unit), Course Code 010105. Can be delivered in one or two semesters depending on class period length. No specialized lab space required — standard classrooms with computer access is sufficient.

f. What type of certification testing and/or assessment is included with the training? (Max 250, remaining 250.

Students must earn 70% /above on the course to qualify for the IBC exam. Online exam administered through approved testing platform with approved proctor: 90–95 multiple-choice questions, 120 min time. Pass/fail scoring; results available immediately.

g. What are the safeguards for test validity to protect the certification standards? (Max 250, remaining 250.

GGI is the sole entity authorized to schedule testing. Students are individually registered on a secure proctored testing platform. Questions are randomized and proprietary, not publicly available. A GGI-approved proctor administers all exams.

h. Does the assessment include written exams, hands-on applications, and/or performance measures? (Max 250, remaining 250.

Computer-based exam: 90–95 multiple-choice questions testing mastery of web mapping, spatial analysis, database concepts, GIS project management, basic coding and expression concepts, and applied spatial skills from hands-on project-based learning.

i. Does work experience also qualify for this certification? (Max 250, remaining 250.

Certification is based on successful completion of the GGI exam following the course. Individuals with prior GIS-related experience (even with military) would still complete the certification exam; prior experience may support faster preparation.

j. Explain career advancement upon completion of training and obtaining certification:

GIS 101 IBC qualifies students for entry-level Mapping Aide or GIS Support Technician roles (\$35-42k/yr). Stackable credentials lead to GIS Technician (\$48k/yr), GIS Analyst (\$65k/yr), GIS Manager (\$96k/yr) or the professional GISP credential.

k. Are there additional training opportunities beyond the training affiliated with this IBC? (Max 250, remaining 250).

Additional training available through Registered Apprenticeships (LA Works), university and college GIS programs statewide and nationally. GGI's GIS Entry Level IBC is the direct next-step course within the Louisiana high school pathway.

l. Are continuing education, dual enrollment, articulated credit, and/or career ladder opportunities affiliated with this IBC? (Max 250, remaining 250).

GGI is working with Louisiana postsecondary institutions to develop 100–200 level college courses for dual enrollment and articulated credit. GIS career ladder progresses from GIS Technician through GIS Analyst to GIS Manager.

m. What is the cost for the training and certification and what resources do employers provide in support? (Max 250, remaining 250).

Training: \$1,100/student. Exam: \$225/student or teacher. GGI is an approved LDOE Supplemental Course Academy provider; school districts may request SCA funding. Perkins and CDF funding are eligible.

n. What is the recertification process for an individual's credentials to remain current/active? (Max 250, remaining 250).

The GIS 101 IBC credential does not expire. Students can build further credentials via GIS Entry Level and Drones to Smart Maps IBCs. GISP from GISCI is the milestone requiring education, experience, and professional contributions.

SECTION F — SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Your Name: Fran Harvey, GISP

Your Phone: 225-939-1091

Your Email: fharvey@gginstitute.org

Your FAX: N/A

LOUISIANA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL
**INDUSTRY-BASED CERTIFICATION (IBC)
APPLICATION**

GIS DRONES TO SMART MAPS

GIS Drones to Smart Maps

Course Code: 010104 | Proposed Credential Level: Advanced Statewide Credential

Submitted by: Global Geospatial Institute (GGI)

*Contact: Fran Harvey, GISP | fharvey@gginstitute.org | 225-939-1091
8000 Innovation Park Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820*

SECTION A — BASIC INFORMATION

1. Submitting Organization

Global Geospatial Institute (GGI)

2. IBC Title

GIS Drones to Smart Maps

3. Certifying / Accrediting Agency

Name of Certifying Agency	Address	Contact Person	Phone No.
Global Geospatial Institute	8000 Innovation Park Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70820	Fran Harvey, GISP	225-939-1091

4. Educational Partner Agency / School / District

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State of Louisiana

SECTION B — WORKFORCE DEMAND

6. Explanation of Workforce Demand for IBC [max 2,400 characters]

Unmanned Aerial Systems (“UAS”) and geospatial technology are transforming Louisiana's most critical industries, creating immediate and measurable demand for workers with drone operation and geospatial analysis skills. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (“DOTD”) actively deploys drone fleets for road basemap maintenance, LiDAR capture, 3DEP elevation data collection, construction monitoring, and real-time emergency response. DOTD also oversees the State’s formal Advanced Aviation and Drone Advisory Committee. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (“CPRA”), with a \$1.7 billion annual budget, uses drone imagery for coastal wetland restoration monitoring and evaluation. Louisiana State University's 2024 drone program actively monitors chemical leaks, collects water samples, and supports

emergency response through aerial imagery. Additionally, pipeline, CO2 sequestration, solar, and energy companies throughout Louisiana actively recruit UAS-capable geospatial technicians. Numerous geospatial-related positions are currently posted in Louisiana. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (“BLS”) reports a national median salary of \$51,940 per year for Surveying and Mapping Technicians, with 5% projected growth through 2034.¹ Louisiana state projections show this occupation growing from 1,046 to 1,090 positions by 2032, at a median wage of \$21.70 per hour (\$45,139 per year). The global geospatial market is projected to reach \$681 billion by 2031. Organizations previously reliant on satellite imagery providers are now deploying their own UAS assets, creating immediate demand for workers who can operate, process, and analyze drone-collected geospatial data. GGI's Drones to Smart Maps IBC is the capstone of a three-tier high school GIS pathway, positioning Louisiana students for a rapidly expanding, high-wage career field with direct application across engineering, environmental, agriculture, public safety, and energy sectors in Louisiana.

↳ 1687/2400 chars (713 remaining)

SECTION C — STAR JOBS OCCUPATIONS

7. List of Occupations with 3, 4 or 5 Star Jobs Ratings [min 3, max 5]

#	Occupation	Stars	Est. Annual LA Demand	Wage (Low)	Wage (High)
1	Surveying & Mapping Technicians	3 ★	44	Entry level: \$14.66/hr	Typical: \$18.08 Experienced: \$29.23/hr
2	Civil Engineering Technologists & Technicians	4 ★	67	Entry Level: \$14.00/hr	Typical: \$29.60/hr Experienced: \$76.67/hr
3	Environmental Engineering Technologists	4 ★	30	Entry Level: \$14.43/hr	Typical: \$29.21/hr Experienced: \$47.00/hr
4	Industrial Engineering Technicians	4 ★	10	\$15.31/hr	Experienced. \$40.55/hr

Career pathway: Students earning this credential can be hired directly as UAS Field Technicians or Surveying & Mapping Technicians (entry-level), advance to Remote Sensing Analyst or GIS Analyst

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dep’t of Labor, *Surveying and Mapping Technicians*, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/surveying-and-mapping-technicians.htm> (last visited May 26, 2026).

(mid-level), and with additional education or licensure may progress to Cartographer, or Licensed Surveyor.

SECTION D — EMPLOYER SUPPORT

8. Louisiana Employer Support [minimum 3, maximum 5]

△ Letters of support on company letterhead must be emailed to ibccouncil@la.gov with the application Confirmation Number. Each letter must address: (1) workplace experience opportunities for students, and (2) hiring preference for graduates with this certification.

#	Name of Employer / Association	Address	Contact Person	Phone No.
1	St. John the Baptist Parish Planning & Zoning	1811 W Airline Hwy, Laplace, LA 70068	Rebecca Hymel, GIS Administrator	985-359-0905
2	Riverlands Surveying Company	505 Hemlock St, Laplace, LA 70068	Stephen P.Flynn, Professional Land Surveyor and the co-founder	985-652-6356
3	C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC	135 Regency Square, Lafayette, LA 70508	Kathryn Fenstermaker, Corp. Communications	337-237-2200
4	Waggoner Engineering	10305 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816	Miles Williams, P.E., Sr. Vice President, Transportation Leader	225-938-1529
5	CSRS, a Westwood Company	8555 United Plaza Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70809	Matthew Martinec, Director, Planning & Government Advisory	512 431-7089

SECTION E — BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

a. Curriculum to be used for training purposes: Character Count: (Max 250, remaining 250.)

Semester course covering drone image analysis, remote sensing, geospatial data integration, and FAA UAS regulations—preparing students for careers in coastal restoration, energy inspection, emergency management, and precision agriculture. (010104)

b. Is the curriculum or training materials duplicated in another training field? Character Count: (Max 250, remaining 250.)

No. Uniquely integrates UAS image analysis, remote sensing science, and drone imagery analysis into one Advanced credential unduplicated in Louisiana CTE, reflecting a complete skill set valued by the State's growing industries.

c. Facilities currently offering training or where training could be implemented: (Max 250, remaining 250.)

Training sites: Hahnville, Destrehan, East St. John, and St. John STEM Magnet High Schools (St. Charles/St. John) upon approval. Expansion to Alexandria, Shreveport, and New Orleans. Requires a standard classroom plus outdoor drone flight space.

d. Upon completion of training and certification, what is the next step in continuing training/education? (Max 250, remaining 250.)

Graduates may enter UAS/GIS roles in agriculture, engineering, homeland security, energy, or environmental services, or pursue GIS degrees, FAA Part 107 certification, ASPRS credentials, or advanced software certification.

e. What is the minimum length of time required to complete the training? (Max 250, remaining 250.)

The minimum training duration is one or two semesters (depending on class period length), totaling 120 hours or 1 Carnegie Unit. Course Code: 010104. GGI recommends completion of GIS Entry Level (Course Code 010103) as a prerequisite.

f. What type of certification testing and/or assessment is included with the training? (Max 250, remaining 250.)

Students need 70%+ in the course to sit the IBC exam: a proctored online test of 90–95 multiple-choice questions (~2 hours) covering UAS operations, remote sensing, drone imagery analysis.

g. What are the safeguards for test validity to protect the certification standards? (Max 250, remaining 250.)

GGI is the sole entity authorized to schedule testing. Exams use a GGI-approved proctor (not the teacher), a secure platform, randomized proprietary questions, 24-hour code expiration, and verified student identity.

h. Does the assessment include written exams, hands-on applications, and/or performance measures? (Max 250, remaining 250.)

The assessment is a computer-based, 90–95 question multiple-choice exam covering UAS systems, remote sensing, drone imagery processing, FAA regulations, and geospatial data integration—reflecting the hands-on, project-based learning from the course.

i. Does work experience also qualify for this certification? (Max 250, remaining 250.)

This certification combines classroom and project-based training; work experience alone doesn't substitute. Prior military UAS or geospatial experience qualifies individuals to sit for the exam but doesn't waive the exam requirement.

j. Explain career advancement upon completion of training and obtaining certification: (Max 250, remaining 250.)

Opens entry-level UAS/GIS roles (\$42K–\$58K), advancing to Remote Sensing Analyst/GEOINT Analyst (\$83K), GIS Developer (\$85K), and GIS Project Manager (\$105K). Applies across agriculture, criminal justice, homeland security, engineering, and energy.

k. Are there additional training opportunities beyond the training affiliated with this IBC? (Max 250, remaining 250.)

Yes. Louisiana universities (e.g., ULM's UAS/Drone Management degree with HS workshops); national university programs, industry providers, and online resources offer further training. FAA Part 107 and ASPRS credentials are natural complements.

l. Are continuing education, dual enrollment, articulated credit, and/or career ladder opportunities affiliated with this IBC? (Max 250, remaining 250.)

GGI is developing dual enrollment and articulated credit pathways with Louisiana postsecondary institutions. Students may pursue GIS/GIScience degrees, FAA Part 107, or ASPRS credentials, leading toward the GISP—the field's professional milestone.

m. What is the cost for the training and certification and what resources do employers provide in support? (Max 250, remaining 250.)

Training costs \$1,100/student; the exam is \$225/student or teacher; teacher training is \$2,000/teacher. GGI is an LDOE Supplemental Course Academy provider (SCA funding available); Perkins and CDF funding also apply. (215)

n. What is the recertification process for an individual's credentials to remain current/active? (Max 250, remaining 250.)

The credential does not expire, though ongoing courses are encouraged as UAS tech evolves. FAA Part 107 renews every 24 months; ASPRS/GISCI offer ongoing PD, with GISP requiring demonstrated experience.

SECTION F — SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Your Name: Fran Harvey, GISP

Your Phone: 225-939-1091

Your Email: fharvey@gginstitute.org

Your FAX: N/A



Louisiana Community and Technical College (LCTC) System

265 South Foster Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
phone: 225.922.2800 www.lctcs.edu

Richard Nelson, President
Tim Hardy, Board of Supervisors Chair

TO:

Richard Nelson
LCTC System President

THROUGH:

Dr. Chandler LeBoeuf 
Vice President of Education

Dr. Wendi Palermo 
Chief Education and Training Officer

FROM:

William Tulak 
Executive Director of Academics and Workforce

DATE:

March 20, 2026

SUBJECT:

LCTC System Approved Non-Credit Programs and Certifications

APPROVED
4-8-26
LCTCS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FOR BOARD ACTION

Recommendation: Staff recommends the LCTC System Board of Supervisors approve the following non-credit programs and certificates listed below.

IBC Approvals

1. Geographic Information System – Entry Level Technician Certification, Global Geospatial Institute, (CIP 45.0702) – **3 STARS**
2. Supply Chain, Inventory & Logistics Certified Specialist, NRF Foundation (CIP 52.0203) – **5 STARS**

Background: LCTC System Policy #1.024 - Curriculum Development Process and Requests allows for non-credit programs of study to be submitted and approved by the Board. All LCTC System colleges are authorized to offer an approved non-credit program. Non-credit certificates issued by the college are not approved by the Board except for the Certification of Competency (COC).

Fiscal Impact: Non-credit programs are typically financially self-sustaining.

History of Prior Actions: The colleges are continuously revising and creating new programs to meet workforce needs.

Benefits to the System: Approval of non-credit programs can create increased student financial aid options.



Approved for Recommendation to the Board
Richard Nelson

4-8-26
Date

Signature: *William Tulak*

Email: williamtulak@lctcs.edu

Signature: *Wendi Palermo*
Wendi Palermo (Mar 31, 2026 13:51:44 CDT)

Email: wendipalermo@lctcs.edu

Signature: *W. Chandler LeBoeuf*
W. Chandler LeBoeuf (Mar 31, 2026 14:30:23 CDT)

Email: chandlerleboeuf@lctcs.edu

Consent Agenda - Non Credit Programs

Final Audit Report

2026-04-02

Created:	2026-03-31 (Central Daylight Time)
By:	Ericka Poole (erickapoole@lctcs.edu)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA9Me9qOZu_f09Rmn5wspidNPA_BDg4dPT

"Consent Agenda - Non Credit Programs" History

-  Document created by Ericka Poole (erickapoole@lctcs.edu)
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-  Document emailed to William Tulak (williamtulak@lctcs.edu) for signature
2026-03-31 - 1:48:41 PM CDT
-  Email viewed by William Tulak (williamtulak@lctcs.edu)
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-  Document e-signed by William Tulak (williamtulak@lctcs.edu)
Signature Date: 2026-03-31 - 1:50:28 PM CDT - Time Source: server- IP address: 76.165.120.2
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Signature Date: 2026-03-31 - 1:51:44 PM CDT - Time Source: server- IP address: 74.193.161.233
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-  Signer chandlerleboeuf@lctcs.edu entered name at signing as W. Chandler LeBoeuf
2026-03-31 - 2:30:21 PM CDT- IP address: 76.165.120.2
-  Document e-signed by W. Chandler LeBoeuf (chandlerleboeuf@lctcs.edu)
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 Document e-signed by Katie Waldrop (katiewaldrop@lctcs.edu)

Signature Date: 2026-04-02 - 11:46:11 AM CDT - Time Source: server- IP address: 76.165.120.2

 Agreement completed.

2026-04-02 - 11:46:11 AM CDT



505 Hemlock Street · LaPlace, LA 70068

Phone: (985) 652-6356

(800) 248-6982

Fax: (985) 652-3422

Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S.
Project Manager

Donna A. Flynn
President

June 30, 2026

Louisiana Workforce Commission
Susana Schowen, Secretary
Office of the Executive Director Workforce Investment Council
Post Office Box 94094 100 North 23rd Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9094

Dear Secretary Schowen:

I am writing on behalf of Riverlands Surveying Company to express our strong support for Global Geospatial Institute's ("GGI") applications to: (1) upgrade the GIS Entry Level Technician credential from a Basic to an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification; (2) establish an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS; and (3) establish an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS Drones to Smart Maps (collectively, the "Applications").

Upgrade the GIS Entry Level Technician credential from a Basic to an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification

As a Louisiana employer in the land surveying and mapping, Riverlands Surveying Company depends on skilled GIS professionals to manage survey data and convert field measurements into GIS-ready datasets, support boundary surveys and property mapping, maintain spatial databases for client deliverables, and produce survey-grade maps and technical documents. The GIS Entry Level Technician certification reflects a level of competency that extends beyond introductory GIS knowledge.

This certification demonstrates that an individual has developed a complete set of transferable GIS technical skills, including spatial data management, survey data processing, cartographic design, database management, and precision data handling. These are the competencies our organization requires for GIS-related roles, and they support upgrading the credential to Advanced Statewide status.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to fill roles within our organization such as Survey Technician, GIS Data Specialist, Mapping Technician, CAD/GIS Operator. These positions require demonstrated proficiency in GIS analysis and production. We currently have 2-3 positions that require or benefit from these competencies, and we anticipate continued demand in this area.

Riverlands Surveying Company is prepared to provide workplace experience opportunities for students pursuing this credential, including field survey work experience with licensed surveyors, data processing and quality control work, direct mentorship from professional land surveyors, participation in survey projects. When hiring for GIS-related positions, we give strong preference to candidates who hold advanced industry-recognized certifications because they demonstrate the skill and readiness we expect from new hires.

Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS

Riverlands Surveying Company relies on Geographic Information Systems ("GIS") for manage survey data and convert field measurements into GIS-ready datasets, support boundary surveys and property mapping, maintain spatial databases for client deliverables, and produce survey-grade maps and technical documents. The demand for workers with practical GIS knowledge continues to grow across our organization and industry.

We believe the GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS certification addresses a real workforce need in Louisiana. The credential covers transferable competencies—including spatial analysis, data visualization, geocoding, web mapping, and mobile data collection—that are directly applicable to our work and valuable across GIS platforms.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to support our operations by assisting with survey data conversion and GIS database development, supporting map production for clients, contributing to quality assurance for spatial datasets. Certified individuals could fill Survey technician / Mapping data specialist roles within our organization.

Riverlands Surveying Company is committed to supporting Louisiana's GIS workforce pipeline and is prepared to apprenticeship-style training with licensed surveyors, hands-on field and office experience, direct mentorship pathway toward surveying credentials for students enrolled in the GIS 101 program. When hiring for positions involving geospatial technology, we give preference to candidates who hold industry-recognized GIS certifications because they provide assurance that applicants understand core GIS concepts and tools.

Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS Drones to Smart Maps

Riverlands Surveying Company actively uses Unmanned Aerial Systems ("UAS") and geospatial technology for manage survey data and convert field measurements into GIS-ready datasets, support boundary surveys and property mapping, maintain spatial databases for client deliverables, and produce survey-grade maps and technical documents. The integration of UAS technology with GIS analysis has become increasingly important to our work in Louisiana.

The GIS Drones to Smart Maps certification addresses a critical and growing workforce need. It demonstrates mastery of the full UAS-to-GIS workflow, from drone operation and aerial data collection to remote sensing analysis and smart map production. The credential is valuable because it combines data collection and data analysis skills in one integrated certification.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to fill specialized roles within our organization such as UAS Operator/Aerial Survey Specialist, Drone Photography and Orthomosaic Specialist, Infrastructure Surveying Technician. We are committed to supporting

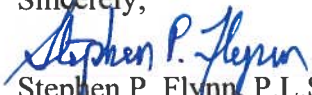
workforce development in this area and project significant expansion of drone-based surveying and aerial imagery services, with integration of UAS data into survey deliverables.

This credential would provide significant value to Louisiana industry. Riverlands Surveying serves Louisiana's surveying needs including boundary surveys, topographic mapping, and infrastructure documentation. Drone technology combined with GIS processing enables faster survey project delivery, high-resolution aerial base maps, and enhanced data products for Louisiana's diverse landscape.

Riverlands Surveying Company is prepared to provide workplace experience opportunities for students pursuing this credential, including apprenticeship-style training with licensed surveyors, hands-on field and office experience, direct mentorship pathway toward surveying credentials. When hiring for UAS and GIS-related positions, we prefer candidates who hold advanced industry-recognized certifications demonstrating both drone operation proficiency and GIS analytical capability.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council to approve GGI's Applications. Each credential addresses skills that Louisiana employers need, and approval will help students access pathways to high-demand careers in geospatial technology.

Sincerely,


Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S.
Survey Manager
Riverlands Surveying Company



July 2, 2026

Louisiana Workforce Commission
Susana Schowen, Secretary
Office of the Executive Director Workforce Investment Council
Post Office Box 94094 100 North 23rd Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9094

Dear Secretary Schowen:

I am writing on behalf of CSRS, a Westwood Company, to express our strong support for Global Geospatial Institute's ("GGI") applications to: (1) upgrade the GIS Entry Level Technician credential from a Basic to an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification; (2) establish an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS; and (3) establish an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS Drones to Smart Maps (collectively, the "Applications").

Upgrade the GIS Entry Level Technician credential from a Basic to an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification

As a Louisiana employer, CSRS depends on skilled GIS professionals to conduct spatial analysis for planning studies, support strategic planning with data visualization, manage planning databases, and produce maps and reports for municipal and regional clients. The GIS Entry Level Technician certification reflects a level of competency that extends beyond introductory GIS knowledge.

This certification demonstrates that an individual has developed a complete set of transferable GIS technical skills, including spatial data management, planning analysis, database management, cartographic design, and policy support. These are the competencies our organization requires for GIS-related roles, and they support upgrading the credential to Advanced Statewide status.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to fill roles within our organization such as GIS Analyst, Planning Support Specialist, Data Analysis Technician, Mapping Specialist. These positions require demonstrated proficiency in GIS analysis and production. We currently have 1-2 positions that require or benefit from these competencies, and we anticipate continued demand in this area.

CSRS provides workplace experience opportunities for students pursuing this credential, including internships on planning studies and strategic initiatives, participation in client analysis and visualization, experience with municipal planning challenges. When hiring for GIS-related positions, we give strong preference to candidates who hold advanced industry-recognized certifications because they demonstrate the skill and readiness we expect from new hires.

Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS

CSRS relies on Geographic Information Systems ("GIS") for conduct spatial analysis for planning studies, support strategic planning with data visualization, manage planning databases, and produce maps and

reports for municipal and regional clients. The demand for workers with practical GIS knowledge continues to grow across our organization and industry.

We believe the GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS certification addresses a real workforce need in Louisiana. The credential covers transferable competencies—including spatial analysis, data visualization, geocoding, web mapping, and mobile data collection—that are directly applicable to our work and valuable across GIS platforms.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to support our operations by developing public engagement web mapping tools, supporting interactive planning scenario analysis, creating online planning information systems for clients. Certified individuals could fill GIS technician / Planning analyst assistant roles within our organization.

CSRS is committed to supporting Louisiana's GIS workforce pipeline and is prepared to internships on planning projects, participation in stakeholder engagement tool development, mentorship from planning professionals, experience supporting public participation processes for students enrolled in the GIS 101 program. When hiring for positions involving geospatial technology, we give preference to candidates who hold industry-recognized GIS certifications because they provide assurance that applicants understand core GIS concepts and tools.

Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS Drones to Smart Maps

CSRS actively uses Unmanned Aerial Systems ("UAS") and geospatial technology for conduct spatial analysis for planning studies, support strategic planning with data visualization, manage planning databases, and produce maps and reports for municipal and regional clients. The integration of UAS technology with GIS analysis has become increasingly important to our work in Louisiana.

The GIS Drones to Smart Maps certification addresses a critical and growing workforce need. It demonstrates mastery of the full UAS-to-GIS workflow, from drone operation and aerial data collection to remote sensing analysis and smart map production. The credential is valuable because it combines data collection and data analysis skills in one integrated certification.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to fill specialized roles within our organization such as UAS Operator, Land Use Change Documentation Specialist, Project Site Assessment Technician. We are committed to supporting workforce development in this area and project increased use of drone-based documentation for strategic planning, development site assessment, and public engagement visualization.

This credential would provide significant value to Louisiana industry. CSRS supports Louisiana communities and government agencies in navigating complex planning challenges and strategic decisions. Web GIS tools and drone-based documentation enable informed planning processes, transparent public engagement, and data-driven decision-making for sustainable development.

CSRS is prepared to provide workplace experience opportunities for students pursuing this credential, including internships on planning projects, participation in stakeholder engagement tool development, mentorship from planning professionals, and experience supporting public participation processes. When

hiring for UAS and GIS-related positions, we prefer candidates who hold advanced industry-recognized certifications demonstrating both drone operation proficiency and GIS analytical capability.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council to approve GGI's Applications. Each credential addresses skills that Louisiana employers need, and approval will help students access pathways to high-demand careers in geospatial technology.

Sincerely,



Matthew Martinec
Principal and Senior Advisor
CSRS, a Westwood Company
matthew.martinec@westwoodps.com
512-431-7089



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

From the Department of Planning and Zoning

June 26, 2026

Louisiana Workforce Commission
Susana Schowen, Secretary
Office of the Executive Director Workforce Investment Council
Post Office Box 94094 100 North 23rd Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9094

Dear Secretary Schowen:

I am writing on behalf of St. John the Baptist Parish Planning & Zoning to express our strong support for Global Geospatial Institute's ("GGI") applications to: (1) upgrade the GIS Entry Level Technician credential from a Basic to an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification; (2) establish an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS; and (3) establish an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS Drones to Smart Maps (collectively, the "Applications").

Upgrade the GIS Entry Level Technician credential from a Basic to an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification

As a Louisiana employer in the municipal planning and land management, St. John the Baptist Parish Planning & Zoning depends on skilled GIS professionals to maintain comprehensive land use and zoning databases, support development review and permitting processes, analyze infrastructure capacity for growth planning, and produce official parish maps and planning documents. The GIS Entry Level Technician certification reflects a level of competency that extends beyond introductory GIS knowledge.

This certification demonstrates that an individual has developed a complete set of transferable GIS technical skills, including spatial data management, database management, cartographic design, land use analysis, and planning support. These are the competencies our organization requires for GIS-related roles, and they support upgrading the credential to Advanced Statewide status.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to fill roles within our organization such as GIS Technician, Planning Support Specialist, Zoning Data Analyst, Mapping Technician. These positions require demonstrated proficiency in GIS analysis and production. We currently have 1-2 positions that require or benefit from these competencies, and we anticipate continued demand in this area.

St. John the Baptist Parish Planning & Zoning is prepared to provide workplace experience opportunities for students pursuing this credential, including internships in planning and development review, participation in comprehensive plan updates and land use studies, exposure to municipal GIS database management. When hiring for GIS-related positions, we give strong preference to candidates who hold advanced industry-recognized certifications because they demonstrate the skill and readiness we expect from new hires.

Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS

St. John the Baptist Parish Planning & Zoning relies on Geographic Information Systems ("GIS") for maintain comprehensive land use and zoning databases, support development review and permitting processes, analyze infrastructure capacity for growth planning, and produce official parish maps and planning documents. The demand for workers with practical GIS knowledge continues to grow across our organization and industry.

We believe the GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS certification addresses a real workforce need in Louisiana. The credential covers transferable competencies—including spatial analysis, data visualization, geocoding, web mapping, and mobile data collection—that are directly applicable to our work and valuable across GIS platforms.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to support our operations by supporting public access to zoning and development information, assisting with permit tracking visualization, contributing to planning document production. Certified individuals could fill GIS technician / Planning support assistant roles within our organization.

St. John the Baptist Parish Planning & Zoning is committed to supporting Louisiana's GIS workforce pipeline and is prepared to internships in planning department, participation in land use studies and comprehensive planning, mentorship from planning professionals for students enrolled in the GIS 101 program. When hiring for positions involving geospatial technology, we give preference to candidates who hold industry-recognized GIS certifications because they provide assurance that applicants understand core GIS concepts and tools.

Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS Drones to Smart Maps

St. John the Baptist Parish Planning & Zoning actively uses Unmanned Aerial Systems ("UAS") and geospatial technology for maintain comprehensive land use and zoning databases, support development review and permitting processes, analyze infrastructure capacity for growth planning,

and produce official parish maps and planning documents. The integration of UAS technology with GIS analysis has become increasingly important to our work in Louisiana.

The GIS Drones to Smart Maps certification addresses a critical and growing workforce need. It demonstrates mastery of the full UAS-to-GIS workflow, from drone operation and aerial data collection to remote sensing analysis and smart map production. The credential is valuable because it combines data collection and data analysis skills in one integrated certification.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to fill specialized roles within our organization such as UAS Operator, Development Monitoring Technician, Facility Assessment Specialist. We are committed to supporting workforce development in this area and project growing use of drone imagery for development monitoring, land use change detection, and infrastructure planning to support informed decision-making.

This credential would provide significant value to Louisiana industry. St. John Parish is managing growth and development in a complex landscape balancing industrial operations, residential communities, and natural resource protection. Web GIS tools and drone-based land use monitoring support effective planning decisions, transparent public engagement, and sustainable development aligned with parish priorities.

St. John the Baptist Parish Planning & Zoning is prepared to provide workplace experience opportunities for students pursuing this credential, including internships in planning department, participation in land use studies and comprehensive planning, mentorship from planning professionals. When hiring for UAS and GIS-related positions, we prefer candidates who hold advanced industry-recognized certifications demonstrating both drone operation proficiency and GIS analytical capability.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council to approve GGI's Applications. Each credential addresses skills that Louisiana employers need, and approval will help students access pathways to high-demand careers in geospatial technology.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Hymel
GIS Coordinator

June 26, 2026

Louisiana Workforce Commission
Susana Schowen, Secretary
Office of the Executive Director Workforce Investment Council
Post Office Box 94094 100 North 23rd Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9094

Dear Secretary Schowen:

I am writing on behalf of Waggoner Engineering, Inc. to express our strong support for Global Geospatial Institute's ("GGI") applications to: (1) upgrade the GIS Entry Level Technician credential from a Basic to an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification; (2) establish an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS; and (3) establish an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS Drones to Smart Maps (collectively, the "Applications").

Upgrade the GIS Entry Level Technician credential from a Basic to an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification

As a Louisiana employer in the engineering consulting and project management, Waggoner Engineering, Inc. depends on skilled GIS professionals to support design and planning processes with spatial analysis, manage project-level GIS databases, produce design documentation and visualizations, and analyze site conditions for feasibility studies. The GIS Entry Level Technician certification reflects a level of competency that extends beyond introductory GIS knowledge.

This certification demonstrates that an individual has developed a complete set of transferable GIS technical skills, including spatial data management, database management, design support, cartographic design, and engineering analysis. These are the competencies our organization requires for GIS-related roles, and they support upgrading the credential to Advanced Statewide status.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to fill roles within our organization such as GIS Specialist, Engineering Technician, Project Support Analyst or Data Management Technician. These positions require demonstrated proficiency in GIS analysis and production. We currently have 4 positions that require or benefit from these competencies, and we anticipate continued demand in this area.

Waggoner Engineering, Inc. is prepared to provide workplace experience opportunities for students pursuing this credential, including internships on active engineering projects,



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participation in feasibility and site analysis studies and work experience in design support and visualization. When hiring for GIS-related positions, we give strong preference to candidates who hold advanced industry-recognized certifications because they demonstrate the skill and readiness we expect from new hires.

Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS

Sigma Consulting Group Waggoner Engineering relies on Geographic Information Systems ("GIS") to support design and planning processes with spatial analysis, manage project-level GIS databases, produce design documentation and visualizations, and analyze site conditions for feasibility studies. The demand for workers with practical GIS knowledge continues to grow across our organization and industry.

We believe the GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS certification addresses a real workforce need in Louisiana. The credential covers transferable competencies, including spatial analysis, data visualization, geocoding, web mapping, and mobile data collection, that are directly applicable to our work and valuable across GIS platforms.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to support our operations by assisting with project visualization for client presentations, supporting interactive project mapping and analysis tools, and contributing to online project information systems. Certified individuals could fill GIS technician / Engineering support analyst roles within our organization.

Waggoner Engineering, Inc. is committed to supporting Louisiana's GIS workforce pipeline and is prepared to provide internships in engineering projects, participation in design and planning phases, mentorship from engineering and design professionals for students enrolled in the GIS 101 program. When hiring for positions involving geospatial technology, we give preference to candidates who hold industry-recognized GIS certifications because they provide assurance that applicants understand core GIS concepts and tools.

Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification in GIS Drones to Smart Maps

Waggoner Engineering, Inc. actively uses Unmanned Aerial Systems ("UAS") and geospatial technology to support design and planning processes with spatial analysis, manage project-level GIS databases, produce design documentation and visualizations, and analyze site conditions for feasibility studies. The integration of UAS technology with GIS analysis has become increasingly important to our work in Louisiana.

The GIS Drones to Smart Maps certification addresses a critical and growing workforce need. It demonstrates mastery of the full UAS-to-GIS workflow, from drone operation and aerial data



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collection to remote sensing analysis and smart map production. The credential is valuable because it combines data collection and data analysis skills in one integrated certification.

Individuals who earn this certification would be qualified to fill specialized roles within our organization such as UAS Operator/Site Assessment Specialist, Project Documentation Technician, Aerial Survey Analyst. We are committed to supporting workforce development in this area and project expanded use of drone-based site documentation, feasibility study support, and project progress monitoring across engineering portfolio.

This credential would provide significant value to Louisiana industry. Waggoner Engineering, Inc. supports Louisiana's infrastructure and development projects through engineering excellence. Drone-based site assessment combined with GIS analysis enables more efficient project planning, client communication through visual documentation, and informed engineering decision-making.

Waggoner Engineering, Inc. is prepared to provide workplace experience opportunities for students pursuing this credential, including internships in engineering projects, participation in design and planning phases, mentorship from engineering and design professionals. When hiring for UAS and GIS-related positions, we prefer candidates who hold advanced industry-recognized certifications demonstrating both drone operation proficiency and GIS analytical capability.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council to approve GGI's Applications. Each credential addresses skills that Louisiana employers need, and approval will help students access pathways to high-demand careers in geospatial technology.

Sincerely,

WAGGONER ENGINEERING, INC.

Miles B Williams, P. E.

Senior Vice President



Transmitted via Email

June 25, 2026

Louisiana Workforce Commission
Susana Schowen, Secretary
Office of the Executive Director Workforce Investment Council
Post Office Box 94094 100 North 23rd Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9094

Re: Letter of Support for the Global Geospatial Institute's Industry-Based Certification (IBC) Applications

Dear Secretary Schowen:

On behalf of C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC, I am writing to express our strong support for the Global Geospatial Institute's (GGI) applications to:

- Upgrade the GIS Entry Level Technician credential from a Basic to an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification;
- Establish an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification for GIS 101: Introduction to Web GIS; and
- Establish an Advanced Statewide Industry-Based Certification for GIS Drones to Smart Maps.

As a Louisiana-founded surveying, engineering, environmental, and geospatial consulting firm, Fenstermaker recognizes the growing demand for skilled GIS professionals and the importance of developing a workforce prepared to meet that demand. These certifications reflect the technical competencies our industry values and will help strengthen Louisiana's geospatial workforce by preparing students for meaningful careers in GIS and related fields.

Fenstermaker appreciates GGI's commitment to expanding geospatial education and creating industry-recognized pathways that prepare Louisiana students for the workforce.

Respectfully,

FENSTERMAKER

Kathryn Fenstermaker
Corporate Communications Leader

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