



# LA URISA: "NEWS YOU CAN USE"

July 2017 Newsletter

## Recent Events:

It is with heavy hearts we report the passing of our LaURISA Vice President, friend, and esteemed colleague, Dr. Ezra Boyd. Below is an excerpt of Ezra's memorial, written by Lynn Dupont and Hampton Peele. The memorial can be read in its entirety [here](#).

"We are so fortunate in Louisiana that Ezra chose to bring his well-honed statistical and geospatial skills to hazard assessments, risk analysis and generally any need for hands-on analysis during a crisis where he could be of aid. Dr. Boyd's outstanding accomplishments also include the following. As a team member of Team Louisiana (the official Louisiana team of scientists and engineers that investigated the cause and results of the levee failures during Hurricane Katrina at the request of Gov. Blanco), Dr. Boyd developed a massive database of the situational details of the hurricane fatalities and developed predictive modelling for his PhD research. Dr. Boyd was the founding visionary of [www.DisasterMap.net](http://www.DisasterMap.net) which geospatially displays current disasters throughout the USA in real-time as these events unfold. As the messages pour in concerning his sudden passing, it reminds us that Ezra was so much more to our community than his exceptional skills. If you knew Ezra personally you will know of his kindness, his positive attitude, his trustworthiness, his loyalty, his passion for helping others, and his humble demeanor paired with his incredible aptitude for science and math. I know I pushed (maybe bullied) Ezra into taking a board position on Louisiana URISA, which I believed fell right in with his interest in providing GIS outreach throughout the state. He would have excelled as our new LA URISA president as he did in everything he undertook. Thank you Ezra for sharing your honest self with us over the years. You made us better. We will all miss your gentle brilliance."



## Other Items of Importance:

**US Bureau of Labor Statistics:** Employment of surveyors, cartographers, photogrammetrists, and surveying and mapping technicians is expected to grow 19 percent from 2008 to 2018, which is faster than the average for all occupations. Increasing demand for fast, accurate, and complete geographic information will be the main source of job growth.

**US Dept of Labor, Employment & Training Administration's** High Growth Job Training Initiative identified 14 sectors (**one of which was Geospatial Technology**) that fit within the following criteria: 1) They are projected to add substantial numbers of new jobs to the economy or affect the growth of other industries; or 2) They are existing or emerging businesses being transformed by technology and innovation requiring new skills sets for workers.

**Salaries:** URISA conducts a periodic comprehensive Salary Survey for GIS Professionals. We are now collecting data for the 2017 URISA GIS Salary Survey. Participate [here](#). The planned publication date is October 1. For an Executive Summary of the 2011 Salary Survey results [click here](#).

**Job Titles:** URISA has published a 2014 version of its [Model GIS Job Descriptions](#) publication, a useful resource for career paths and skills required along the way.

The 2017 **GIS in Transit Conference** will be held **September 6-8** in Washington D.C. This conference will bring experts from around the country on how GIS is being used every day to improve transit systems. Click [here](#) for more info.

The 2017 **GIS Pro Conference** will be held **October 23-26** in Jacksonville, FL. Participants will share best practices for GIS management and leadership, professional development, certification, and much more. Click [here](#) for more info.