

Training in Tough Times – The URISA Leadership Academy Experience

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Everybody knows budgets are tight and travel and training are restricted and well, prohibited in many entities. After submitting my request for the second year in a row, I was approved to attend the URISA Leadership Academy training in Seattle Washington. I made the case that this training opportunity would assist me in being a more effective manager, but also had the potential to add value to our organization for years into the future. I believe the ULA has begun to do just that. I think the saying “We have to work smarter, not harder” has become somewhat of a cliché, but I really believe it. And when you have innovative high quality leadership and a dedicated and talented team, you can, not just get through these tough times, but thrive.

So what is the ULA? In a nutshell, it is the most comprehensive management and leadership training from the perspective of the GIS professional who has just been thrust into management or who has been there for many years. There is something there for everyone. I’ve been exposed to a handful of supervisor and management training over the years, but this one is focused on our industry. You sit side by side with peers from various GIS entities, from military to private consultants, to various levels of government. The training covers leadership to budgeting and return on investment. These skills will assist in making better decisions related to projects and costs associated with them. Also, the topic of marketing is covered, something we need to do a lot of if we want our organizations to be funded and viable. There is so much the training covers, too much to cover here, so make the best of any training opportunities you may have and check out the URISA Leadership Academy. More information can be found at: <http://www.urisa.org/ula>.

URISA Leadership Academy

June 13-17, 2011

St Louis, Missouri

www.urisa.org/ula