



GIS Certification Institute

# GISCI & GISP Certification

*GISCI Endorsement Designation*



**Maryland State Geographic Information Committee**

*A commitment to excellence in the development and coordination of geographic information technologies.*

TONY SPICCI, GISP  
GIS CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE

JULY 21, 2022





# GIS Certification Institute



- Executive Director of the GISCI
- PTL/TIS Missouri Task Force 1
- GISP Since 2012
- Former Board Member / President of NSGIC
- Has done a lot of other stuff



# THE GIS CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE

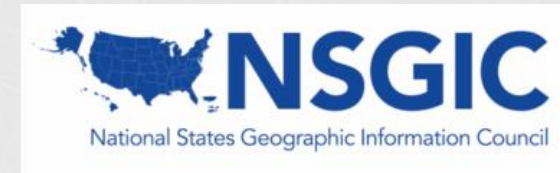
**The GISCI is a not-for-profit organization that provides the geographic information systems (GIS) community with an internationally-recognized, complete certification program, a GISP® Certification.**

# Who is the GIS Certification Institute?

- The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) is a non-profit organization that provides the GIS community with a complete certification program, leading to GISP® (Certified GIS Professional) recognition.
- Based in the United States but present worldwide.
- Born from the late 1990's, URISA survey of its membership. The overwhelming response was a desire for professional certification.

# GISCI Member Organizations

GISCI is composed of a group of Member Organizations representing the range of the geospatial community. One of the strengths of GISCI has been strong and diversified Board representation.



**AAG**

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
of GEOGRAPHERS



*University Consortium for*  
**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE**



**GIS Certification Institute**





# FUTURE DIRECTION OF GISCI

**What's next for the GISCI?**

# New or Planned Activities at the GISCI

- GISP-R Designation
- Pathways Guidance Document
- New Exam Blueprint
- GISP Salary Survey
- GISCI Endorsement Designation Program

# GISCI Endorsement Designation Program

**Recognizing Employers**



# Goals of the GISCI Endorsement Designation Program

- Encourage employers to invest in their staff.
- Recognize the ones that do invest.
- Encourage support for initial certification
- Encourage ongoing support for recertification

# GISCI Endorsement Designation Program

- Created to help increase the value of GISP Certification for our primary stakeholders, and to help facilitate the growth of the GISP Program.
- Granted to organizations that the GISCI deems to be supportive of GIS Professionals and the GISP Certification process.
- Available to all organizations at no cost.



# GISCI Endorsement Designation Program

- Each approved GISCI Endorsement will last for three (3) years.
- Organization will have permission to display their organization logo on our website.
- Organization will have permission to display the GISCI Endorsement designation on their website.

# GISCI Endorsement Designation Program

## Criteria to become endorsed

- Encourage or require all GIS staff to have or obtain GISP certification during employment with the organization.
- Pay for initial GISP certification fees for candidates.
- Pay for ongoing GISP recertification fees for candidates.



# GISCI Endorsement Designation Program

In addition, organizations are strongly encouraged to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Pay for ongoing specialized training.
- Pay for GIS-related continuing education courses.
- Tie compensation to GISP Certification (e.g., bonus, raises)
- Promotion criteria includes required GISP Certification
- Provide support for ongoing activities to maintain certification (e.g., conference attendance and presentations, membership in professional societies)
- As an organization, strive to meet the ethical standards of the GISCI and support their GISPs in meeting those standards

# Application

- A cover letter on the organization's letterhead requesting the designation.
- A description on how the organization will adhere to the minimum qualifications and required criteria along with a summary of how the organization either currently meets or plans to meet one or more of the additional criteria.
- An indication of support (signature) from the organization's GIS Director, HR representative and the GIS Director's supervising unit.



# Application

- If the organization meets the qualifications and the review Committee approves the request, the GISCI will reach out for additional information to complete the process. The GISCI will also schedule a 30-minute call to discuss the application. There is no cost to obtain this designation.

# Closing Thoughts

- Becoming a GISP takes a long-term investment
- Maintaining your GISP also requires an investment
- GISPs are active in their profession leaders in their field

***It reinforces behaviors that enrich the profession.***

William F. Johnson - Carpe Geo Evangelist, Applied Geographics, Inc (AppGeo)





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# Thank You!

## Questions?

**Contact Tony: [tspicci@gisci.org](mailto:tspicci@gisci.org)**