MAGIP Mentoring Subcommittee

Minutes from June 16 subcommittee meeting (and notes from the April Intermountain Conference social)
DMPapineau June 30, 2010
Blue text is questions to be resolved when the topics are addressed

Meeting attendance:
- Carrie Shockley
- Wendy Thingelstad
- Jason Danielson (via his written notes on the topics—he's on vacation)
- Diane Papineau

1. Ask Me buttons and New to GIS social at Conference: What did you think?

   - Buttons: General consensus is that it is hard to assess whether the Ask Me buttons contributed to dialog and connecting mentors and mentees. However, they probably did set a general tone of welcoming and several attendees wore them (fifty were purchased, few were left over). **NOTE**: For the ESRI User Conference this year, attendees can customize content on their name badge where it will read: "Ask me about <subject specialty(s)>" I think ESRI uses this to serve as an informal icebreaker to generate conversations among attendees (versus a specific "mentoring" focus). Perhaps this is another approach MAGIP could try on their badges, versus Ask Me buttons. Then *everyone* who attends our conference would participate in this icebreaker approach.

   - Social: General consensus is that it was successful! We had 8 folks there with 8 or more years of experience and 14 folks there with six or fewer years of experience. Nice mix. The count of attendees by years of experience (thanks Jason!):

20+	1
15-20	2
10-15	1
8-10	4
6-8	0
3-6	7
0-3	7

     We like the idea of doing the social early in the conference week as happened this time. Need to look for ways to have it NOT compete or bleed into public night. Need an hour buffer before public night starts? String icebreaker worked well for

introductions. The brainstorming related to the mentoring program generated the following ideas:

- Group mentors by theme (use a check box on a group of themes on the website)
- Perhaps also use subcategories of experience
- Have a way to query these subsets and the mentors that have self-identified to these themes
- More description for (of?) the mentors (not sure I understand this one).
- Outreach for mentees:
    - Schools (different schools of training—don't understand this. Help Wendy!)
    - local governments
    - agriculture
    - Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
    - Users who are not GIS specialists like emergency services personnel and commissioners
- Raise awareness (of?)
- Mechanism to share entry level jobs in GIS
- Create a New to GIS web forum
- Create awards for participation
- Create a list of the top ten questions that may be asked of you at an interview
- Contact list of places to drop off a resume
- List of frequently asked questions on the site (?)

Items on this list can inform the mentoring program itself or possibly suggest items that this committee can create for the website (like Jason's list of training resources) or get ported to the Professional Development committee.

If we do this social activity again in Montana, the question asked would, of course, be different. Might be helpful to mimic Janet's approach soliciting contributions and go person to person asking for their thoughts. If we were to do this activity at the Intermountain conferences in Idaho, it could be an opportunity to contribute a networking social activity at that conference and provide publicity for both MAGIP and the mentoring program.

2. New committee members Diane has included for our next meeting:

    Valentijn Hoff at the Fire Center (UM), Melissa Rivnie at Gallatin County

3. Discuss next meeting time to look in detail at Phase II schedule/deliverables:

    We decided to meet every other week on Wednesdays in the afternoon for one hour so we can keep the process moving forward toward our promised prototype. Our plan

indicates we'd like to have a prototype by September 1. Next Meeting will be on June 30, 2-3pm.