

Spring 2013

## Geography News, v36n1, Spring 2013

Geographic Alliance of Iowa.

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# Geography News

Volume 36 Issue 1 – Spring 2013

## Coordinator's Corner

Alex Oberle

I'm pleased to announce that the "Geographic Alliance of Iowa Strategic Plan" has been approved by the National Geographic Society and was unanimously approved by the GAI Steering Committee. So it is now "the law of the land" through its expiration at the end of 2016. Special thanks once again to the GAI Strategic Planning Committee of Eric Schulz, Kim Hassenfritz, Marcia Hummel, and "T" Elmer. I also wish to thank Ron Mirr, our Consultant who greatly assisted us and provided feedback throughout the process. Within NGS I especially thank the "calibration team" who thoughtfully and rigorously evaluated our plan and provided helpful feedback that improved the final version. Special thanks to Emily Schell and Michal LeVasseur our NGS Liaisons who provided technical assistance, advocacy, and encouragement.

Most of you won't see any real visible changes to the GAI in the coming years. Regular programming and workshops continue as does our website and delivery of on-line lesson plans and curricular materials. Some examples of subtle changes you might see are more opportunities that connect Geography with both STEM and literacy, an increased focus on "Iowa's place in the world" (both Iowa specific and international linkages), and partnerships with different organizations such as the Mid-Iowa School Improvement Consortium, Iowa Space Grant Consortium, and Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area. Behind the scenes will be other less visible changes such as some different means for evaluating our workshops and on-line lesson plans, more direct links with other alliances, and additional outreach to other stakeholders such as teacher education programs, curriculum coordinators and other administrators, and school boards.

The real changes are taking an already strong alliance--thanks to Kay Weller and our GAI Steering Committee--and continuing to move it forward to support geography in Iowa in the midst of all sorts of external changes: policy makers' declining interest in and support of geography and social studies, new standards such as the Common Core E/LA and C-3 Framework, and the increasing centrality of technology in both teaching/learning in general and in geography itself.

To be responsive and adaptive to this external environment, our strategic plan includes new vision/mission statements and four key, overarching goals:

1. Expand the network of K-12 teachers who effectively integrate, teach, and assess geography in ways that are aligned with state and local

standards and in ways that differentiate instruction for all learners

2. Develop a network that links the GAI with other stakeholders and collaborative partners in order to advance geographic literacy in Iowa
3. Expand the body of high-quality, teacher-friendly materials that support increased understanding of Iowa's geography and Iowa's local-global connection
4. Establish a system for ongoing organizational assessment and evaluation

Within each of these goals are a series of strategies and within strategies are action steps. Action steps are all measurable and an example is: "Conduct at least one workshop per year at a site outside of UNI". Please check back on the GAI website this summer for a .pdf version of the GAI Strategic Plan that you can download and read.

## GAI updates

New Workshop Registration/Payment Process: As many of you already know we have an entirely new process for registration and payment. Instead of registering through the GAI and sending your check for payment to us, it is now centralized through UNI's Continuing Education. There are a number of reasons for this change, most significantly a change in federal guidelines and an unrelated change in university policy regarding the handling of money. The good news from all this is that UNI Continuing Education is a very well-run, efficient organization and thus the new system is quite easy to follow. The negative aspect is that the URLs (web links) for registration our quite long which is no problem if you are clicking on it through an e-mail or webpage, but a hassle if you are trying to copy it down via a paper flyer or document (such as this newsletter. . .). The other downside is **that registration is now due MUCH earlier and same day registration is NOT possible**. Please also note that payment can be made separately from registration and is typically due at the middle of the month in which the workshop starts. Thanks for everybody's understanding regarding these new changes in policies and protocols.

## Summer 2013 Workshops

For smoother workshop registration, please go to <http://www.uni.edu/gai> and then click on our calendar where you can then click on the specific workshop to directly enroll via UNI Continuing Education.

**--Geography, Conflict, and Human Rights--**

1 credit hour

June 24th-June 25th

Eldridge, Iowa (north side of the Quad Cities)

Grade level: 7-12

Who should enroll: Grade 7-12 educators who teach social studies (especially geography and history) or English/Language Arts

\* This is a repeat offering of workshops that we offered in Cedar Falls last year so the workshop cannot be repeated for credit if you enrolled last year

For UNI Geography credit:

<http://www.uni.edu/continuinged/distance/courses/summer-2013/25232524-geog-41335133-67>

Enrollment deadline: Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Payment deadline: mid-June

Cost: \$50

For UNI College of Education credit:

<http://www.uni.edu/continuinged/distance/courses/summer-2013/25252526-elemecml-41335133-67>

Enrollment deadline: Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Payment deadline: mid-June

Cost: \$50

\* Please note that you may only enroll for one or the other and NOT both

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**--Geography, Technology, and the Iowa Core--**

1 credit hour

July 15th-16th

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Grade level: K-12

Who should enroll? Any K-12 educator with an interest in teaching geography and integrating technology-related 21st Century Skills. This workshop is especially useful for those who teach any of the following: geography, history, and other social studies; STEM; TAG; Special Education (but all disciplines are welcome)

\* This is the last in a series of workshops that we have offered in various locations around the state over the past few years

<http://www.uni.edu/continuinged/distance/courses/summer-2013/25572558-geog-41335133-68>

Enrollment deadline: Friday, June 28th

Payment deadline: mid-July

Cost: \$50

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**--Geography, Technology, and the Iowa Core, Part II--**

1 credit hour

July 17th-18th

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Grade level: K-12

Who should enroll?: Any K-12 educator with an interest in teaching geography and integrating technology-related 21st Century Skills. This workshop is especially useful for those who teach any of the following: geography, history, and other social studies; STEM; TAG; Special Education (but all disciplines are welcome)

\* This a Part II to the workshop that we have offered in various locations around the state over the past few years; you do NOT need to have completed the Part I to enroll in this new Part II

<http://www.uni.edu/continuinged/distance/courses/summer-2013/25022503-geog-41335133-60>

Enrollment deadline: Friday, June 28th

Payment deadline: mid-July

Cost: \$50

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**--Teaching Standards-Based Geography--**

1 credit hour

Multiple dates and locations; both on-line and face-to-face (days/times , locations and formats are listed below)

Grade Level: 6-12

Who should enroll: Grade 6-12 educators who wish to enhance their teaching of standards-based geography. The workshop is especially useful for those who teach any of the following: geography, history, and other social studies; STEM; TAG (but all disciplines are welcome)

**Workshop A: Face-to-Face**

Location: Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Dates: June 13th-June 14<sup>th</sup>

<http://www.uni.edu/continuinged/distance/courses/summer-2013/25082509-geog-41335133-63>

Enrollment deadline: Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Payment deadline: mid-June

Cost: \$75

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**Workshop B: Face-to-Face**

Location: Cedar Falls, Iowa

Dates: June 27th-June 28th

<http://www.uni.edu/continuinged/distance/courses/summer-2013/25102511-geog-41335133-64>

Enrollment deadline: Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Payment deadline: mid-June

Cost: \$75

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**Workshop C: On-line**

Location: All on-line

Dates: June 5th, June 12th, June 19th, June 26th [6:30PM-9:30PM]

<http://www.uni.edu/continuinged/distance/courses/summer-2013/25062507-geog-41335133-62>

Enrollment deadline: Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Payment deadline: mid-June

Cost: \$75

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**Workshop D: On-line**

Location: All on-line

Dates: July 8th-July 26th [specific on-line meeting times July 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00-11:00AM; July 15<sup>th</sup> 8:00AM-11:00AM]

<http://www.uni.edu/continuinged/distance/courses/summer-2013/25122513-geog-41335133-65>

Enrollment deadline: Friday, June 28th

Payment deadline: mid-July

Cost: \$75

Geographic Alliance of Iowa  
Department of Geography  
University of Northern Iowa

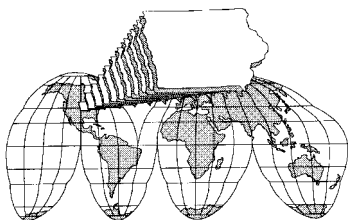
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**University of Northern Iowa**

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