

Session Abstracts

Leading GIS Teams in a Remote World

Presented by Christian Hartnett, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Description: As GIS programs mature and expand, distributed and hybrid work environments have changed how geospatial teams are led and supported. Leading GIS Teams in a Remote World explores practical strategies for managing high-performing GIS teams when staff are geographically dispersed. Drawing on real-world experience leading nationwide geospatial organizations, this presentation examines how leadership approaches, communication patterns, and governance models must evolve to maintain accountability, collaboration, and technical excellence. Topics include building trust across distance, setting clear expectations and metrics, mentoring staff virtually, aligning GIS work with organizational goals, and technological and financial challenges. The session also covers the role of standards, documentation, and shared platforms in enabling consistency at scale, while highlighting challenges such as burnout and knowledge silos.

Keywords: *Remote Work, GIS Leadership*

Driving GIS Success: Leveraging Executive Engagement, Governance, and KPIs

Presented by Curtis Pulford, City of Phoenix

Description: Are you tired of preaching to the choir? Are you wondering how/when executive management will understand the value of a GIS organizational strategy? We, as GIS professionals know the value of what we offer, but often the messaging fails to go up the chain. This presentation will showcase how the City of Phoenix is bridging that divide.

Keywords: *Strategy, Leadership, Governance, Communication*

Applying Project Management Principles to Geospatial Projects and Programs

Presented by Ashley Hitt, Cultivate Geospatial Solutions

Description: Whether you have geospatial projects, programs, or both, learning project management principles to support your organization's GIS work can be essential to success and reduce staff burnout. This session will focus on how you can apply Project Management Institute (PMI) best practices and knowledge areas to better plan, execute, and deliver your geospatial work. Learn tips and tricks to better align your teams with improved communication, tailor approaches to execute GIS projects and programs based on overall objectives, and meet expectations on scope, schedule, and budget.

Keywords: *project management, leadership*

Eight Ways to Identify Opportunities for GIS in Public Works

Presented by Adam Carnow, Esri

Description: GIS users experience multiple benefits from applying technology to their work. Therefore, the more GIS users, the more benefits the organization will realize. One of the primary responsibilities of GIS leaders is to expand the userbase and seek out opportunities to apply GIS across the enterprise. Based on real-world case studies and best practices, this session will review eight ways GIS leaders can identify opportunities for GIS.

Keywords: *Leadership, Management, Strategy, Digital Transformation, Modernization*