

2017 NCGIS CONFERENCE – 30 ROCKS GIS!

February 23-24, 2017 Raleigh Convention Center Raleigh, North Carolina

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27th February, 2017

The just concluded 2017 NCGIS conference presented useful topics on GIS in the world with particular focus on North Carolina as a state. The conference was a huge success with every sector adequately represented. It was an international forum consisting of private sector organizations, researchers, education scientists, technologists, and industry experts in the field of Geographical Information Systems. New GIS technologies were revealed, concluded and on-going researches were presented, and future research areas were highlighted.

The conference was an ideal platform for me, as a graduate student, to become more familiar with remote sensing and its related technologies. I believe this will help me get off to a good start as I pursue my graduate studies. This forum acts as a strategic think tank to enhance a constructive dialogue and collaboration on areas relevant to geographical information systems and to present the latest research results in all areas of the GIS industry. The conference had about 50 sessions in all with an average of 5-7 sessions running simultaneously. Various tools like ArcGIS, ESRI Maps and applications for local governments, databases and various development languages like python were covered.

Andrew Brumfield and Joel Gonzales-Santiago both presented papers on their various research programs for which they were also awarded the **G. Herbert Stout Awards for Innovative Student Papers**. About 30 students from the University of North Carolina System were all given awards. CERSER through the Elizabeth City State University was duly represented by Dr. Linda Hayden, Dr. Lee Hayden and Dr. Johnny Houston who were all present on both days of the event.

The conference had about a thousand participants in attendance with about 150 speakers among which are also awardees and over 45 moderators. It presented an excellent opportunity to gather together, interact and exchange findings and views during conference sessions, ball room summary remark and dinner session, and smaller breakout peer group interactions. It was indeed a great experience!

Finally, I will like to thank the Center of Excellence in Remote Sensing Education and Research, Elizabeth City State University for giving me and every member of the team the opportunity to attend the 2017 NCGIS conference under the leadership of Dr. Hayden, who continues to be an inspiration to all the students and alumni of the CERSER.

Below are some of the moments captured during the conference.

