IITG Mid Year Project Report : Entry # 194

Name of Principle Investigator:

Mary Perrelli

IITG Project Title (truncated)

2014-Buffalo State-Perrelli-Developing a Tech Hub to Promote the Use of Geographic Information System Technology across SUNY

1) Please consider the original timeline and deliverable targets. How is your project progressing compared with the original estimates?

Project milestones are being met as outlined in the original timeline. We are ahead of schedule in some area and slightly behind schedule in others. Below is a list of tasks that have been accomplished on each milestone to date.

Milestone 1 (Summer 2014) - Attend ESRI Educational Users Conference
The conference was attended by Mary Perrelli on July 12-July 16, 2014.

Milestone 2 (Fall 2014)- Develop the GIS Tech Hub website and related web links
The GIS Tech Hub website has been completed and is updated regularly.
http://gistechhub.buffalostate.edu/

Milestone 2 (Fall 2014)- Develop a 1 hour seminar highlighting GIS Tech Hub activities and showcasing GIS applications to be held during Bengal Pause at Buffalo State.
We hosted our first GIS Day Celebration in conjunction with Geography Awareness Week. The event included the unveiling of the new GIS Tech Hub web site and also featured a presentation by John Lenahan of ESRI (maker of ArcGIS Software). Attended by 30 students and 8 faculty.

Milestone 2 (Fall 2014)-Identify needs at other SUNY institutions and continue a dialogue on campus collaboration related to GIS
The GIS Tech Hub dialogue on campus has continued. The development of the website resulted in a meeting with Dr. Katherine Conway-Turner, President, SUNY Buffalo State. We have been working with the Admissions department at Buffalo State to have our GIS students work with admissions data to map current and potential student recruitment areas. We plan to meet with Dr, Ann Deakin at SUNY Fredonia this spring and reach out to UB and Erie Community College.

Milestone 2 (Fall 2014)- Present at the Buffalo State 2014 Faculty/Staff Research and Creativity Forum
Dr. Wende Mix and Mary Perrelli presented their work on mobile mapping applications at the 15th annual Faculty/Staff Research and Creativity Forum on October 30th 2014. Mobile applications are one of the initiatives of the GIS Tech Hub.

Milestone 3 (Fall 2014 - Spring 2015)-Curriculum development of several training courses for SUNY Faculty/Staff/Students and the professionals
A one credit hour face-to-face Geodatabase Design course has been developed and is being offered during the Spring 2015. This is ahead of schedule. A 1-credit hour Quality Control and Quality Assurance of Geospatial Data course has been developed and will be offered as an online course during the Fall 2015. A 3-hour workshop is being offered on integrating U.S. Census Bureau data in ESRI GIS software. This workshop will be conducted by an employee of the U.S Census Bureau, NY Regional Office. It has been advertised on the Western New York GIS Users Group and Buffalo States Geography& Planning Department social media sites. It is also featured on the GIS Tech Hub website with an online registration form.

2) How is spending progressing when compared with the original budget estimates? (You may also choose to detail issues regarding access to funds in the next three questions).

Spending is progressing as outlined in the budget narrative and milestones are expected to be completed within budget.

3) Please provide feedback regarding your experience with the project execution, in particular any issues or roadblocks you've encountered that may have been unexpected.

We have only encountered one roadblock to date on this project. The unveiling of the GIS Tech Hub was scheduled on November 18th, 2014 which was a major snow event for the City of Buffalo and the surrounding south-towns. Many students and faculty were not able to make it to campus. It is expected that attendance at this event was impacted by this event. We also had a great presentation by John Lenahan from ESRI titled "Create a Better Future with GIS". The students that attended provide enthusiastic and positive feedback about the event . Campus was closed for the rest of the week so we were unable to capitalize on the interest created by this presentation. Another GIS Tech Hub "unveiling" will be held this spring.

4) What are your positive observations or pleasant surprises about your team's interaction or project process that might would be helpful to other PI's?

It has been our experience that once campus partners have been identified and information sharing is established it makes for ease of collaboration and productive interactions. We have had positive interactions on campus working with the College Relations office to set up a Drupal shell website for the GIS Tech Hub. We have also been able to work collaboratively with Computing and Technology Services to identify workflows for ESRI software installations on campus. The Admissions Department has also reached out to the GIS Tech Hub to assist with mapping current and potential student recruiting areas for SUNY Buffalo State. The launch of the GIS Tech Hub website has spurred GIS interest across campus. This is a trend that is expected to grow as the project progresses.

5) Please describe any challenges you've encountered working with your project team that you've found solutions for that might be helpful to other PI's.

The project team is working well together. We have not encountered any challenges at this point in the project.