



**PRESS RELEASE
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HI-TEC 2009 Innovative Program Award Presented to GeoTech Center

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (July 1, 2009) – The HI-TEC Innovative Program Award will be presented July 21, 2009 at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI-TEC) in Scottsdale, Arizona. This award recognizes a team of advanced technology education professionals that has designed and implemented a significant innovation, which has led to a positive impact on student enrollment, retention, or advanced technology education. This year's recipient is the GeoTech Center for its Two-to-Four-Year Articulation Program in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Accepting the award will be Kenneth Yanow, Professor of Geographical Sciences at Southwestern College and Dr. Ming-Hsiang Tsou, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at San Diego State University, for their innovative work in this area.

In close collaboration with Dr. Ming-Hsiang Tsou, Kenneth Yanow has led the GeoTech Center's effort to provide seamless articulation between his two-year college and San Diego State University's baccalaureate program. Tsou and Yanow are pioneers in the successful adoption of GIS as a general education course in California in order to better articulate technology-based courses from the two-year college to the four-year university. Their work is the basis of a nationwide effort, headed by the GeoTech Center, to promote the use of technology-based courses for general education requirements in order to build and sustain these programs.

Part of this program included the development of a new general education (GE) level GIS course (GEOG104: Geographic Information Science and Spatial Reasoning). Dr. Tsou created this new GE course with fully online, publicly accessible lecture notes and web-based exercises. This new GIS course has been articulated successfully with several community colleges in San Diego, including San Diego Mesa College, Southwestern College, and Grossmont College.

This award represents HI-TEC's commitment to serving the advanced technology education community and recognizing outstanding programs that strive toward the same goal by increasing student success in technology programs.

The High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (www.highimpact-tec.org) is produced by a consortium of National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education centers and projects and is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and contributions from corporate and industry partners such as Intel.

Contact:
Christine Dossey, HI-TEC Public Relations
cdossey@cord.org
254-772-8756, extension 316

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