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### 2012 west virginia gis conference in morgantown may 8 - 11

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. - More than 200 of West Virginia's geospatial leaders, managers and technology leaders will meet at West Virginia University in Morgantown May 8 – 11 for this year's State Geographic Information System (GIS) Conference. Events will be held in WVU's Brooks Hall located at 98 Beechurst Avenue.

Using geography to plan and make decisions is not new, but the effort has been enhanced by GIS technology. GIS integrates computer hardware, software and data for capturing, managing, analyzing and mapping all forms of geographically referenced information. GIS has an important role in solving some of the major issues facing the state, including economic development, tourism, transportation, improvement of various services, and many others.

The conference will provide learning opportunities to representatives from all levels of government, academia, nonprofits, and the private sector. They will find out about new methods for researching, training and sharing ideas and methods in GIS applications ranging from economic development, public health, and transportation, to natural resource management and geospatial research.

This year's conference theme is "Achieving Success with GIS in the Mountain State," which refers to the numerous GIS applications and research projects that benefit the citizens of West Virginia and our nation. Examples include land-use planning, marketing, wetland identification, permit tracking, parcel and tax mapping, natural resources management, engineering design, road and utility maintenance, and emergency services dispatching.

"By gathering experts from an array of different fields, these conferences have the ability to generate a common understanding of our local and regional geography," said State GIS Coordinator Tony Simental. "I hope this conference will encourage GIS professionals to collaborate for better future development in West Virginia."

This bi-annual conference will be hosted by the [West Virginia GIS Technical Center](#), the [State Office of GIS Coordination](#), and the [WV Association of Geospatial Professionals](#). More information about the conference and GIS technology can be found online at <http://wvagp.org/conference/2012/>.

# # #

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