

Tara Whippo

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Education

M.S., August 2011, Geography and Spatial Analysis/Geographic Information Systems, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

- Concentration in GIS /Spatial Analysis and Geography of Health
- Geographic Information Analysis Certificate (G.I.A)
- Graduate Research Assistant, 2009-2011
- Member of Gamma Theta Upsilon
- Member of Illinois Geography Chapter of ILGISA

B.S., May 2009, Geography, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL

- Concentration in Environmental Studies, Spatial Analysis/Geographic Techniques
- Geographic Information Systems Minor
- Earth Science Minor
- ESRI Certificate (Introduction to ArcGIS Desktop)

Academic Accomplishments

- Recipient, Outstanding Graduate Student, Northern Illinois University Graduate School
- College of Sciences Dean's List
- Recipient, Grace Markwell Meier Scholarship for Research in Geography
- Recipient, SURE Award Winner
- Recipient, EIU Honors College Undergraduate Research Award
- Recipient, Geography Alumni Award
- Recipient, John Wozencraft Jr. Memorial Award, Scholarship in Geography
- President, Gamma Theta Upsilon, Rho Chapter (2007-2010)
- College of Sciences Curriculum Committee, Student Advisory Member (2008-10)

Work Experience

Village of Carol Stream, Department of Engineering Services Carol Stream, IL

GIS Coordinator 2010-2011

- Solely responsible for the creation, management, and updating of geospatial data and village GIS
- Maintained up-to-date utilities records in GIS databases and guided CAD conversion process
- Used Trimble GPS data units to collect storm, sanitary, and water features in the field and perform quality control
- Assisted village staff in creating GIS systems and completing GIS analyses for planning and design projects
- Developed quick and efficient storage of village GIS data
- Maintained data coordination in conjunction with county GIS data
- GIS Map Production: including the creation of property, land use and zoning maps in coordination with Community Development
- Created reports on daily tasks and project protocols/workflows for future uniformity of GIS
- ArcGIS and GPS installation, troubleshooting and user training for village departments

United States Department of Commerce/US Census Bureau DeKalb, IL
QAC Representative 2010

- Helped populations in areas that have been historically undercounted understand the census
- Assisted respondents in completing their questionnaires
- Provided language and question assistance and Be Counted forms for those uncouncted by regular Census questionnaires

City of Decatur, Office of Planning and Development Decatur, IL
GIS/GPS Intern 2007-2008

- GPS Infrastructure Mapping
- Utilized Leica GPS 1202 Pole Units to obtain horizontal and vertical coordinates for sanitary and water utilities
- Utilized GIS systems to format utility atlas for the City of Decatur

Qualifications

- Working background in Physical Geography, Environmental Science, and GIS
- Proficiency with the following programs: ESRI ArcGIS Suite 9.1/9.2/9.3/10x, ArcReader, ESRI ArcPad 7/10x, GPS Correct, GPS Analyst, GeoMedia Professional, Google SketchUp
- Extensive experience utilizing ESRI Network Analyst and Spatial Analyst extensions, geoprocessing, editing, and advanced editing functionalities
- Proficient in downloading and exporting raw data to GIS
- Extensive field experience in GPS data collection using Leica GPS Pole Unit, Blue Tooth Unit and Trimble ProXH and GeoXH Units
- Knowledge of SQL Queries and Database Creation
- Experienced with Microsoft Office Suite 2003, 2007, 2010
- Experience in GIS drawn from background in local government, planning, environmental studies, engineering, and quantitative methods
- Strong communication and problem-solving skills and work well independently as well as in team environments
- Detail and results-oriented, with strong organizational, analytical, and research skills
- Creative and willing to express opinions and welcome constructive feedback
- Overall, a fast learner who is focused, mature, self-motivated and eager to contribute in any and all ways possible

Career Related Experience

Whippo, Tara., *Variable Catchment Sizes for the Two-Step Floating Catchment Area (2SFCA) Method: A Case Study of Accessibility to Primary Care Physicians within Two Illinois Regions*, Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA) Spring Conference 2011, Champaign, IL. April 19-20, 2011. (Poster)

Whippo, Tara., *Preliminary Investigation of Changes in Field Border Tree Lines 1966-2007*, West Lakes Association of American Geographers Conference, Bloomington, IN, November 13-15, 2008. (Poster)

References

Available Upon Request