

For Immediate Release: November 6, 2002

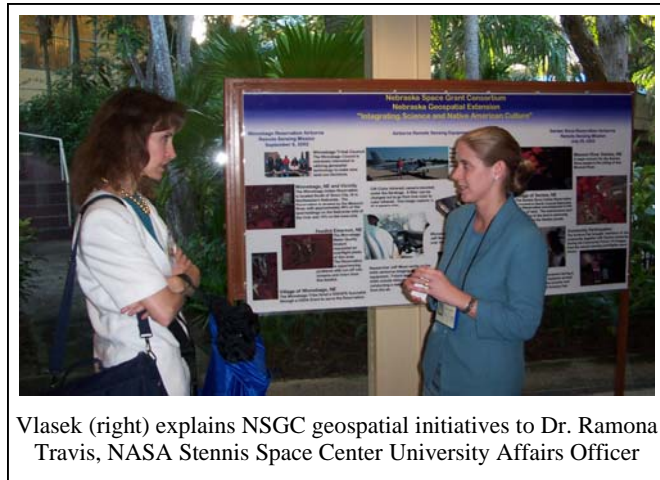
Contact: Mary Fink

402/554-3772 or nasa@unomaha.edu

## NASA NEBRASKA SPACE GRANT AND EPSCoR PROGRAM ANNOUNCES NEW GEOSPATIAL POSITION

The NASA Nebraska Space Grant Consortium (NSGC) & Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) have expanded their research ventures by creating a new geospatial position within its organization. After a competitive review process, Mrs. Karisa Vlasek was selected as the first NSGC & EPSCoR Geospatial Extension and Research Specialist. In this position, Vlasek will coordinate the transfer of geospatial technologies throughout the community. These technologies can enable users to solve complex, real-world problems. Some examples of geospatial technology applications include local government planning, floodplain analysis, infrastructure planning, taxation, land cover, hydrologic modeling, homeland security, water management, coastal management, air quality, disaster management, airport noise monitoring, and public health.

The Geospatial Extension and Research Specialist position was developed to provide technology transfer and commercialization of geospatial data and systems. Additionally, the liaison function of this position will support and strengthen the NSGC's collaboration with Nebraska's Land-Grant extension service and the UNL Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT), while establishing geospatial learning centers at community and tribal colleges. The introduction of this position creates the opportunity for building a statewide network of geospatial expertise. The NSGC's relationships with business incubators and technology parks will also be cultivated through this position's daily activities. Maximizing workforce development, developing geospatial programs, and engaging the higher education community and citizen users in geospatial science are among this position's principal duties.



Vlasek (right) explains NSGC geospatial initiatives to Dr. Ramona Travis, NASA Stennis Space Center University Affairs Officer

Vlasek holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography and Master of Public Administration degree, Aviation Administration specialization, from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. From 1999 to 2001, she worked under contract for the United States Department of Transportation. Her professional memberships include Gamma Theta Upsilon, Nebraska GIS/LIS Association, and the Association of American Geographers, among others.

This addition to the NSGC & EPSCoR personnel provides a solid foundation for the continuance of high-quality workforce development and technology transfer initiatives. For additional information please visit the NSGC & EPSCoR geospatial website at <http://geo.unomaha.edu>. Questions or comments may be directed to [nasa@unomaha.edu](mailto:nasa@unomaha.edu).

# # #