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NEBRASKA GEOSPATIAL EXTENSION PROGRAM RECEIVES GRANT FROM USDA AND NASA

The Nebraska Geospatial Extension Program, a component of NASA Nebraska Space Grant and EPSCoR, was selected to receive a grant from USDA and NASA. The grant is supported by a joint agreement by the two agencies to encourage the application of NASA's earth science research results to enhance decision support for agricultural production and resource management. The Nebraska Geospatial Extension Program received \$69,160 for one year with the possibility for a two year renewal bringing the total award to over \$207,000. Awards were made in two categories: implementation of a Geospatial Extension Specialist (GES) in new states and continuation of projects in states that already have a GES. Nebraska was awarded one of the continuation grants along with Utah/Arizona and New Hampshire. Three new states, Texas, Rhode Island and Missouri, were awarded funds to hire Geospatial Extension Specialists.

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe announced he was "pleased to be part of this worthwhile effort which will benefit all Americans. NASA's unique ability to view the earth from space will enhance our ability to predict climate, weather and natural hazards, as well as mitigate and assess the effects of natural and human-induced disasters." Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said "education in the use of geographic information systems and other advanced technologies is critical in today's agricultural economy if we are to remain competitive and protect our natural resources for future generations."



GES Karisa Vlasek showing the Santee community overflights of their Reservation

The Nebraska Geospatial Extension Program was launched in August 2002. The program develops linkages between academic and commercial entities; transfers

geospatial technology to the public; and contributes to Nebraska's workforce development through workshops in geospatial technologies and applications.

Nebraska's winning proposal "Native GEM" (Geospatial Extension Model) focused on the successful Native American outreach efforts, which include partnerships with tribal communities, tribal colleges, K-



12 tribal schools and industry. The grant will support Native IMAGE (Institute for Managing Applications in Geospatial Extension) at Little Priest Tribal College in Winnebago, NE. The Institute provides education, outreach and research to Nebraska's Reservations as well as other surrounding communities. The additional

funds from the USDA/NASA grant will enhance existing activities and will include expanded geospatial workshops for tribal communities, purchase of geospatial software, collection of data and support for technical assistants working for Native IMAGE.



Geospatial Workshop in Winnebago, NE

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Geospatial Extension Specialist Karisa

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