

Dear Colleagues,



This message is to inform you that Jim Plasker has given notice to the ASPRS Executive Committee of his retirement as Executive Director of ASPRS, effective January 2014 and we have begun implementation of the ASPRS Executive Director Succession and Transition Policy.

As ASPRS Executive Director for nearly 16 years, Plasker led or significantly contributed to numerous programmatic efforts on behalf of the ASPRS membership and the broader geospatial community. These included resolution of professional licensure issues and expanded geospatial representation to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES); development of the Ten Year Remote Sensing Industry Forecast (Phases I-IV); increased awareness of Landsat data continuity issues and the requirement for a National Land Imaging Program; ASPRS participation in several U.S. Department of Labor career and statistical reporting programs including NAICS and ONET; expansion of both the number and monetary value of the ASPRS awards and scholarships endowed through the ASPRS Foundation; supported a number of ASPRS studies on camera calibration, digital orthophotography and the value of Landsat data; aided ASPRS volunteers in the development of the LAS common data exchange standard and the best practices guidelines for procurement of professional geospatial services and geospatial products; oversaw expansion of the ASPRS Certification Program to include technologists and intern categories; and increased efforts to support the accreditation of applied science and engineering programs through his continuing service to the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

During Plasker's tenure he also oversaw implementation of the Society's strategic plan, including an expansion and modernization of the ASPRS publications program; fulfillment of the decision to operate its conferences independently; improvement of the financial health of the Society; recovery of the APSRS Foundation and full endowment of its awards; and the payoff of the mortgage on the Headquarters offices. The Society now has a working investment policy for Society short and long term reserves, which specifically enabled the recovery of the publication of ASPRS manuals from an outside publisher and supported ongoing Society operations as the Nation's economic condition worsened in recent years. In addition, Plasker has implemented technological advancements in the Headquarters IT infrastructure as well as the membership database and website capabilities.

Upon announcing his retirement, Plasker said, "ASPRS is a world-class geospatial organization with members located in nearly every country. As such, I have had the pleasure to serve the membership as well as represent the Society, along with volunteer leadership, both internationally and to our sister societies in the USA. The opportunity to work with my colleagues throughout the geospatial community to enhance and improve our profession has been most rewarding to me and hopefully to the ASPRS membership in general." He looks forward to working with the ASPRS Board of Directors to ensure a smooth and effective transition to a new Executive Director. In retirement, Jim and his wife, Billie, plan to return to their native Oregon and once again enjoy the climate and lifestyle of the western U.S.

Speaking for the ASPRS Board of Directors and Headquarters staff, I want to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for all that Jim has accomplished on behalf of ASPRS. His dedication, leadership, and commitment to our professional society and geospatial community have been outstanding.? We look forward to ongoing interactions with Jim during this transition period and his continuing support of ASPRS in the coming years.

We will be inviting member volunteers to serve on various succession and transition committees, and we look forward to your full support and understanding during this process. We encourage qualified members to consider applying when the position announcement is released.? The position description and position announcement will be posted on the ASPRS website shortly.

If you have any questions or concerns as we proceed through this orderly transition, please let me know.

Regards,

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