SPACE Program Inspires a Broader Approach to Spatial Thinking

March 2009

Dear Colleagues

The NSF-supported SPACE program comes to an end this month. I wish to thank all SPACE program participants, co-principal investigators, and instructors for help in promoting spatial analysis and spatial thinking in undergraduate education through this program. More than two hundred of you, along with instructors and assistants at UCSB, Ohio State, San Diego State, San Francisco State, and the Univ of Oklahoma, contributed to the success of eleven six-day-long workshops. Many of you helped to organize SPACE-supported special sessions at a dozen conferences in several disciplines and in workshops at your own universities and colleges. Others received support from SPACE to extend their own knowledge of spatial analysis for teaching. We will document all of this in a final report to NSF and post it on this website.

Behind the scenes, here at UCSB, we have been working on a project that builds directly on the SPACE experience. We invite you to participate in the collaborative creation of a new wiki to serve undergraduate instructors interested in spatial thinking. Please go to TeachSpatial.org and Create an Account. This will enable you to add a blog, participate in discussions and pose questions, share teaching resources, suggest new source documents on spatial concepts, and formulate your own schema about spatial thinking. With your help, we hope that this site will become a credible contributor to the focus on spatial thinking in education at all levels for a broad range of disciplines. Please help in directing attention to TeachSpatial.org among potentially interested colleagues and to sharing resources that will help in the promotion of spatial literacy.

Karl Grossner designed the site and is the Coordinator of TeachSpatial.org. He is a PhD student in Geography at UCSB, and has extensive experience in education and web development.

Thank you for helping to make the SPACE program a success. We hope to continue our relationships with you through collaboration at TeachSpatial.org.

I also wish to thank the Co-PIs, instructors, and assistants who have contributed to the success of the program and the National Science Foundation for its support.

regards,

Don Janelle
Principal Investigator of SPACE
Research Professor and Program Director
Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science

PS:
UCSB (in cooperation with Dr. Stephen Matthews at The Pennsylvania State University) is continuing with a program of workshops as part of an NIH-supported training program to promote spatial analysis in population- and health-related research.