March 2007

HAZUS User of the Month!

Congratulations to Jamie D. Mitchem, the first recipient of the National HAZUS User of the Month award. Dr. Mitchem is an Assistant Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, California University of Pennsylvania where he successfully created a new concentration in Geographic Information Sciences (GIS) and Emergency Management under the existing Bachelor of Arts major in Geography. As the co-coordinator for this program, he collaborates with regional practitioners to develop joint projects and advance the all-hazards approach of emergency management throughout southwestern Pennsylvania.

Dr. Mitchem was instrumental in creating and managing the 3RiversHUG (HAZUS Users Group) and their work was featured in a recent Success Story on the FEMA and hazus.org website. He is currently working on a partnership between the 3RiversHUG and the following Pennsylvania Counties; Washington, Fayette and Greene. He is actively involved in work within Washington County where he recently ran a HAZUS Analysis and presented the findings to the Washington County Flood Task Force. Dr. Mitchem is known for involving his students in the work being done and supervised several students as they revised the school layer for Washington County by adding fields for Capacity, Floors, Kitchen infrastructure, etc. Seeing interest by his students involved in the Cal U GIS Club, he initiated a student affiliation between the GIS Club and the 3RiversHUG and created the student chapter of the 3RiversHUG.

And if all that didn't keep him busy enough, Dr. Mitchem has been asked to present HAZUS Studies at the following conferences: PA GIS Conference, PA Geographical Society Conference, Delaware GIS Conference, and TUGIS Conference. Dr. Mitchem is a leader in the National HAZUS Users Monthly Call and is a resource to many other users across the county.

FEMA recognizes Jamie D. Mitchem as a Champion and true supporter of HAZUS through his dedication and hard work in Pennsylvania and across the county.

Congratulations!