

GEOMATICS EXTENSION

Workforce Development

Trainings as an entry level recruitment mechanism:
safety, field work basics, field notes, professionalism, critical thinking, basic drafting, and basic surveying math

Online **CST-aligned** trainings to promote technician career trajectories and provide cross training between **field and office.**



Staffing Challenges

100% of chapters report **too few techs**

54% of chapters report **recruiting is too time consuming and ineffective**

46% of chapters report the **“art” of surveying is being lost**

85% of chapters report **difficulty in finding resources to develop technicians in their careers**

Technician Development

Public Perception

92% of chapters report **public awareness** as an issue

69% of chapters report that the **public does not understand the importance of surveying or what it is**

54% of chapters report **surveying education not being in schools** and a need to focus on **youth education**

The UF Geomatics Extension program has identified a clear need to focus on workforce development for the surveying industry, particularly toward education programs to increase employment opportunities for surveying technicians. A two-pronged approach is being used to fill the gap: upskilling existing technicians and developing a pipeline of new employees.

To **upskill existing technicians**, the UF Geomatics Extension program is creating training resources and courses aligned with nationally recognized certifications. This includes supporting current employees in preparing for the Certified Survey Technician program, something the industry lacks the capacity to do but is sorely needed. The UF Geomatics Extension program is well positioned to deliver these opportunities for current employees through its statewide extension network and in collaboration with industry partners and employers.

To **create a recruitment pipeline** for new employees, the program targets three areas with varying levels of urgency: 1) immediate recruitment through Employ Florida's Career Source Centers, 2) mid-range development through Florida Farm Bureau's Agriculture Education Services & Technology (AEST) program for entry-level employees coming out of high school, and 3) longer-term success through K-12 and 4-H education programs to increase the visibility of surveying as a profession to younger audiences.

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Statewide Team

Katie Britt



Katie Britt earned a B.S. in Geomatics from the University of Florida in 2009 and an M.S. in Geography from the University of Memphis in 2012. She collaborates with the SFFGS team, industry leaders, and stakeholders to address workforce development, education, and training needs. With a strong technical background in GIS and remote sensing, Katie also brings experience in surveying education, instructional design, and youth education to her work.

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Alejandro "Alex" Perez, PSM



Alex is a licensed Florida surveyor and a graduate of the UF Geomatics program (2006). With 14 years of experience in both public and private sectors, he specializes in boundary and construction surveying. He is passionate about mentoring, sharing his knowledge and experience with the next generation of surveyors.

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Ali Gonzalez Perez, PSM



Ali is a Ph.D. candidate in Geomatics with a background in mining engineering and a Master's from the University of Moa (Cuba). He is passionate about using drone and lidar technology for natural resource management and preservation. Ali also dedicates himself to mentoring the next generation of surveyors.

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Dr. Youssef Kaddoura



Dr. Youssef O. Kaddoura holds a Ph.D. in Geomatics Science from UF, where he also earned a Master of Science in Computer Engineering, focusing on developing a replicable technique for georeferencing oblique tower-mounted (PhenoCam) images. Currently, he serves as the ASPRS Florida Region President.

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Todd Bates, PSM



Todd Bates holds a B.S. in International Affairs and a Geomatics Certificate from the University of Florida, where he's pursuing an M.S. With 23 years of experience in the geospatial industry, Todd has worked in land surveying, GIS, geodetic and GNSS applications and LiDAR. He serves as the Vice President of the Broward Chapter of FSMS and actively volunteers in Palm Beach County.

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The Geomatics Extension team is dedicated to supporting Florida's surveying industry by creating and distributing workforce development trainings, recruiting more staff to the industry, and promoting the visibility of the profession to the general public.

