



August 9, 2016

Lynne M. Gilli, Program Manager
CTE Instructional Branch
Division of Career and College Readiness
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
lgilli@msde.state.md.us

Dear Ms. Gilli:

The Maryland Society of Surveyors (MSS) is a professional organization with the mission of advancing the science of Surveying and Mapping in the furtherance of the public welfare and in the interests of both those who use maps and surveys and those who make them.

MSS educates the public as to the necessity and importance of the services provided by professional surveyors, develops standards for accomplishing land surveying tasks which represent the minimum acceptable level of effort to perform the work in a professional manner, and communicates these standards to all Society members.

An affiliate of the National Society of Professional Surveyors, MSS promotes high ethical standards and professionalism among surveyors and promotes the general welfare, efficiency and services of its members.

America is facing an impending crisis. The average age of a surveyor in the United States is 58. Surveyors are retiring and leaving the workforce faster than the new generation is entering. The number of individuals currently enrolled in 2-year or 4-year degree programs in surveying and related geospatial curricula, those sitting for state licensing examinations and those passing the examinations are at an unsustainable level. Moreover, colleges and universities are facing a critical shortage of American PhD instructors in surveying. Several universities that recently conducted searches for professors in the geospatial field had very few applicants and rarely are the applicants U.S. citizens or proficient in speaking English.

Surveying is a key part of the geospatial community, which is one of the high growth workforce sectors in the U.S. economy, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. However, the demand for workers in this area is far outpacing the supply.

Surveyors and other geospatial professionals play an important part in the U.S. economy. These professionals, and support technicians, make accurate measurements of the land, structures, and natural and man-made features, as well as determine property boundaries. The geospatial

workforce provides data relevant to the size, shape, contour, gravitation, location, elevation, and dimension of land and features on or near the earth's surface for engineering, land use, development, construction, environmental protection, resource management, defense, aerospace, law enforcement, public safety, homeland security, healthcare, public and private utilities, energy and other fossil and renewable resources development, IT and software/hardware development, internet tools, general business, banking, insurance, retail and marketing, as well as government agencies at all levels. Geospatial technologies now have a place in almost every market sector and industry.

While geospatial jobs are high paying, high tech, and high quality - the type of jobs the Maryland economy must continue to create and maintain as the information society and knowledge-based economy evolve, there is not a sufficient number of younger Marylanders entering the field.

Future economic growth, home ownership and other important Maryland and national priorities will be adversely impacted if a new generation of surveyors and geospatial professionals are not recruited to enter the workforce.

MSS urges the Maryland Career and Technical Education program to focus its attention on the surveying workforce. MSS would welcome the opportunity to enter into a partnership you're your office, and local workforce entities, to develop effective recruiting strategies, create pathways to higher education and professional employment, and ensure there is adequate preparation in academia to staff university faculties and foster the continued development of 4-year degree programs.

Please let me know how MSS can work with your office to develop such a surveying and geospatial workforce development initiative. We look forward to working you on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TJ Frazier', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

TJ Frazier, LS
President

Mailing address: 1856 Old Reston Avenue, Suite 205, Reston, VA 20190
800-303-6770 • www.marylandsurveyor.org • admin@marylandsurveyor.org