



TO: USUCGER Members

FROM: Ali Maher, President, USUCGER Board

DATE: May 10, 2011

SUBJECT: The collaborative program between USUCGER and the GeoCoalition

USUCGER and GeoCoalition have created a new program to promote research collaboration between faculty members and GeoCoalition partners. As an industry based organization, GeoCoalition (<http://www.geocoalition.org>) aims to encourage communication, cooperation and collaboration among its members as products and events are publicized and promoted. One of its main goals is to identify opportunities for members to endorse common positions and provide a powerful common voice to influence the geo-future.

Through USUCGER–GeoCoalition collaborative program, faculty or GeoCoalition members can request and receive from each other access to real data, analytical tools, or project specific performance information. This collaboration can lead to enhancement of research and educational portfolios of the faculty and also provide exposure and help to disseminate the partners’ experience through publications, conferences, etc. It can also serve as a mechanism for two-way knowledge transfer between academia and industry, for the benefit of both groups.

Currently, there is a broad need for enhanced collaboration between academics and those in the practicing community. In particular, it is useful for academics to have strong ties with the practicing community to ensure that students receive the right background to meet industry’s needs, and that relevant research is conducted to advance both the state of the art and the state of practice. Also, for research purposes, it is extremely beneficial to have access to real data from real projects and case histories, to enhance the quality of the research that is being performed, and to keep academics focused on solving real-world problems.

From the industry side, GeoCoalition members would be ensuring that problems that are identified by practitioners during their day-to-day operations could be examined in greater detail by academics, to see if more lessons can be learned for the benefit of future projects. This kind of collaboration would keep academics more grounded in solving real-world problems, and would help ensure that students are being trained in a fashion that more effectively meets industry’s needs.

As a first step, in order to ensure that collaboration is efficient and sustainable, the USUCGER website will function as a communication conduit between GeoCoalition and USUCGER members. The USUCGER website has a new interactive feature which uploads and records the request that is made. All requests are directed to the respective membership list of the collaborating organization. Any further follow-ups will be handled between the parties directly and USUCGER and GeoCoalition will have no role in the ensuing interaction

All questions and inquiries about the initiative and its process should be directed to either: Chris Meehan from University of Delaware (cmeehan@udel.edu, 302-831-6074) and/or Ali Maher from Rutgers University (mmaher@rci.rutgers.edu, 732-445-0579 ext: 105).