Credential Creep in the Geospatial Field

Abstract:
Credentials like degrees, certificates, licenses, and badges are tokens of credence - of belief in the truth of something. Credentials are conferred and inspected at seemingly every turn in modern life – from when we are named as newborns until we empower our successors to handle our affairs after we’re gone. This presentation aims to make sense of the increasing variety of credentials people encounter as they make their livings in the geospatial professions. We'll consider the proliferation of geospatial credentials in light of trends in employment, in education and training, and in the geospatial enterprise itself. And finally we'll peer into the future, perhaps to glimpse the convergence of educational, professional, and technical credentialing.

About the speaker:
David DiBiase leads the education outreach team at Esri, the world’s leading provider of geographic information systems software. Before joining Esri in 2011, David taught cartography and geographic information science at the Pennsylvania State University for 22 years. David’s research and service activities focus on the professionalization of the GIS field. He helped devise the criteria by which the GIS Certification Institute has awarded its "GIS Professional" credential to some 6,000 practitioners, and served as GISCI president from 2010-11. He was lead editor of the GIS&T Body of Knowledge and the U.S. Department of Labor's Geospatial Technology Competency Model. David also led the NSF-funded GIS Professional Ethics project. After work, his favorite things are the gym, good wine, and classic jazz music – not necessarily in that order.