

Creating new maps is not just to document terrain and roads, but also to pinpoint changes in local communities

By TOCC Staff
Sells- Not long ago if you wanted to locate a place on Earth, you opened an Atlas, but you saw only terrain and roads. These days maps can show much more, and a visiting team of professionals is working with individuals and agencies on the Tohono O’odham Nation on a mapping project.

The team of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) professionals is working with community members, departments, and districts of the Nation to address location-based issues. The group is currently involved in mapping two districts and a community, as well as developing a map of small businesses on the Tohono O’odham Nation.

This GIS group, also called the “GEO:SMART Project,” invites community members and employees from the Nation and the districts to attend professional workshops or to take GIS college courses. The workshop costs and the tuition and textbooks for the courses are covered by a grant from the federal Administration for Native Americans, so they are free to participants.

GIS is a computerized system used to collect, store, analyze, maintain, and display spatial information or data linked to specific locations. Examples of spatial information include population and demographics of the Nation’s districts, bus routes in a locale, land use information, and number of COVID-19

cases on the Nation. Special maps called “elevation models” show the shape of landscapes, which makes it possible to predict where water will flow.

Jackson Doe, GEO:SMART Project Director, said, “GIS is a tool for helping the Tohono O’odham Nation solve problems as well as make decisions regarding location-based issues. We invite and encourage all Tohono O’odham Nation community members as well as employees of the Nation’s departments and districts to attend our workshops to learn more about using GIS to deal effectively with the spatial issues they are facing.”

In a recent student orientation meeting Tohono O’odham Community College’s GIS team members described how they became interested or started in the field.

The GIS professionals all have experience and degrees in geographic information systems. One team member told how she was looking for a new career when she heard a wedding reception conversation about the ancient Mayan city of Tikal (in modern-day Guatemala) and how the GIS tool LiDAR (light detection and ranging) has revealed the city to be much vaster than previously thought. She decided then that GIS would be her field. The National Geographic film Lost Treasures of the Mayan Snake King, available online, tells this story.

The next GIS workshops are listed

- here:
- September 23, 2021 (“How to Find GIS Data”)
 - October 7, 2021 (“Fire Mapping”)
- To register for the workshops, or for more information, readers may check out the GEO:SMART website at <http://ps://tocc.edu/geosmart-project/> or contact Project Director Jackson Doe at 480-453-4075 or jdoe@tocc.edu.

College courses in GIS are ongoing. The next semester at TOCC begins in January 2022. Visit “New Students” at www.tocc.edu to apply.



The GEO:SMART Project held a student orientation on August 19. Project faculty and staff, GIS students, and other partners gathered at Tohono O’odham Community College’s Wisag Kos Mascamakud (Hawk’s Nest Campus) for the event, which was held both in-person and online. In-person participants are, back row: Amos Stevens, Range Technician, Range Conservation; David Madril, Planner Supervisor; Leo Porter, Jr., Planning & Economic Development Administrative Assistant; Dr. Jason Post, GIS Instructor; Lea Miguel, Sells Community Land Committee Member; Front row: Maggie Banks, GIS Technician; Stacia Pedro, Schuk Toak District Receptionist; Jackson Doe, GEO:SMART Project Director; Laurie Suter, Mineral Resources Administrator, Natural Resources Department; Ivone Masara, GIS Technician. Not pictured: Shawn Nez, GEO:SMART IT Technician. Online participants appear on the screen at the back of the group. Photo by M. Lee.

Resources Listing for Help and Support

DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESOURCES


National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women
1-800-903-0111

National Center for Victims of Crime
1-202-467-8700
www.victimsofcrime.org

A Call to Men
1-917-922-6738
www.acalltomen.org

National Sexual Assault Hotline
1-800-656-4673 (HOPE)
www.rainn.org

 **StrongHearts Native Helpline** 24/7 FOR DOMESTIC, DATING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)
strongheartshelpline.org
Is a Survivors safe, confidential and anonymous domestic, dating and sexual violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives, offering culturally-appropriate support and advocacy.

 **Tohono O’odham Komckud Ki: DV/SA Prevention Program** 24/7
Crisis Hotline 1-866-666-4889

STALKING AND SEX TRAFFICKING

National Human Trafficking Resource Center/Polaris Project
Call: 1-888-373-7888 | Text: HELP to Be Free (233733)
www.polarisproject.org

The National Trafficking Helpline Open 24/7
Phone: 1(888) 373-78
•Text: “HELP” or “INFO” to 233-733
victimconnect.org/

8855-4-Victim (855-484)
RAINN.org

800.656.HOPE (4673)

National Domestic Violence Hotline
thehotline.org

SPARC
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
Learn more at
stalkingawareness.org



Love is respect
Hotline: 1-866-331-9474
www.loveisrespect.org

Break the Cycle
202-824-0707
www.breakthecycle.org

National Dating Abuse Helpline
1-866-331-9474
www.loveisrespect.org

Bloom 365 Teen
Tel. (888) 606-4673
TEXT: Bloom365 to: 44321
info@bloom365.org

LGBTQ LESBIAN, BI-SEXUAL, GAY, TRANSGENDER, GENDER NON-CONFORMING RESOURCES

The Audre Lorde Project
1-178-596-0342
www.alp.org

LAMBDA GLBT Community Services
1-206-350-4283
<http://www.qrd.org/qrd/www/orgs/avproject/main.htm>

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
1-202-393-5177
www.nglftf.org

Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse
1-206-568-7777
www.nwnetwork.org

Trans Lifeline
877-565-8860
www.translifeline.org