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Contact

Ayme Zemke
651-789-2235
azemke@beehivepr.biz

Davenport Group Consultant Appointed to North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council

Kelly Laughton provides private-sector perspective to council

St. Paul, Minn. (Aug. 25, 2008) – Kelly Laughton, a Davenport Group consultant, recently was appointed to serve on the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council (NC GICC). As a council member, Laughton will have the opportunity to help shape Geographic Information System (GIS)-related policies and act as a private sector representative.

“The private sector has a very important stake in GIS, as the technology is used in day-to-day life,” said Laughton. “It’s an honor to be a part of the council and be able influence policies that can ensure the information we’re using is accurate and current.”

The NC GICC was formed to develop policies regarding the use of geographic information, GIS and other related technologies. It conducts strategic planning, resolves policy and technology issues and provides coordination of state, local and private sector GIS efforts.

“Kelly adds another dimension to the Council with her local government experience combined with her knowledge of GIS and the IT community,” said Lee Mandell, NC GICC council chair. “We look forward to her service on the Council.”

Recommended by Dempsey Benton, secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and appointed by Sen. Marc Basnight, president pro tem of the North Carolina General Assembly, Laughton’s term is effective immediately and runs through May 31, 2009.

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Laughton currently is a consultant for Davenport Group where she is responsible for finding solutions for clients, including helping government clients find solutions for data protection. Her IT career spans more than 20 years and includes extensive experience managing enterprise GIS and representing local government. Prior to working at Davenport Group, Laughton served on the NC GICC as the local government committee chair from 2002 to 2006.

"Kelly is a valuable member of our team and we're proud of her appointment to the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council," said Sonia St. Charles, CEO of Davenport Group. "We know she'll provide the council the same great expertise that she provides our clients on a daily basis."

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About Davenport Group

St. Paul-based Davenport Group helps organizations get ahead of the technology curve by creating flexible, feature-rich strategies for storage management and data recovery. Leveraging 30 years of industry experience and best-in-class technology systems, it designs cost-effective storage solutions that build on existing infrastructure to help organizations get control of their data. The company works with businesses ranging from the public to private sector, including a growing network of Fortune 1000 companies and County and State Governments, and is a woman-owned business. For more information visit Davenportgroup.com.

About North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council

The North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council (NC GICC) is charged with fostering cooperation among government agencies, universities and the private sector, creating policy and resolving technical issues related to North Carolina's geographic information and GIS systems. In 2001, the North Carolina General Assembly passed Session Law 2001-359, establishing the Geographic Information Coordinating Council by law. The Council reports annually to the Governor and to the General Assembly. For more information visit www.ncgicc.com.