



GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) COLLABORATIVE



The Foundation for California Community Colleges has teamed up with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the college research community to provide geographic information systems (GIS) data and tools to all California Community Colleges. GIS enables users to combine different data sources with a standard set of system maps. It is a useful tool for district researchers, chief business officers, planners, and facilities managers.

Mapping Tools

The GIS Collaborative, started in 2005, is an interactive website and online database of resources developed by the Foundation for use by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, colleges, and districts. The tools are easy to use for GIS professionals and newcomers alike. The Foundation has also secured discount pricing for ESRI's GIS software, making industry-leading technology both affordable and accessible for colleges and districts to use administratively and as an educational tool.

The website was launched in 2007 and includes printed maps, reports, interactive maps hosted on GIS servers, Community College system data, links to outside data sources, and tools to foster collaboration and information exchange. Maps of all 72 districts were drafted using legal descriptions, and are currently available online. In 2009, campus boundaries were mapped. Starting in 2010, campus building footprints were added, with about half of the state's campus buildings completed to date. The data and document library is constantly growing. Staff members are also working on expanding server capacity, enhancing accessibility, and designing a standard package of maps and reports.

Visualizing Data

GIS is used by the Community College system to create data overlays that are placed over spatially defined maps, such as district boundaries and zip codes. Participating colleges and individuals can upload and share their own GIS research. The site also connects researchers with data from the United States Census Bureau, California state agencies, Community College districts, and commercial entities. The system allows users to visualize bond and voter demographics, campus master planning, facilities planning, emergency preparedness planning, trustee boundaries and redistricting, bond campaign planning, campus energy conservation planning, campus operations and resource needs, enrollment trends, economic development, and workforce assessment.

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Highlights

- Maps of all 72 districts and 112 campuses are available on the GIS website interactive feature.
- 40 colleges use the Foundation's purchasing program for GIS software.
- 2,425 campus buildings are mapped and available; more are being added weekly, about 50 percent of all the campus buildings in the state.

Partner Organizations

- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- The Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges
- San Joaquin Delta College
- Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI)
- Onuma Inc.

The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official foundation to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education while saving millions of dollars for colleges each year. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. *For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org.*