

ESRI Development Center Program Universities

ESRI (CA, USA) has created a program for universities, designating particular departments in colleges nationwide as ESRI Development Centers (EDCs). This special status gives a qualifying department's professors and students the ability to apply their area of expertise in the development of ESRI's GIS technology.

This recognition will be given to university departments that have exemplary programs focused on educating students to design and develop GIS applications using ESRI's ArcGIS Desktop or ArcGIS Server technology.

From software engineering and information technology to geography, business, and education, departments of all disciplines can be granted the EDC title. Becoming an EDC not only gives the department's GIS faculty and students the opportunity to develop applications and extensions beyond the current GIS platform, but the EDC status also gives them the chance to receive training in system integration and application development within a particular domain.

Blending education and innovation, EDCs foster software development in system integration, applications within particular domains-such as gas and electricity-and additions to the ArcGIS product suite. By becoming an EDC, a higher education department will be able to do the following and more:

- Teach and develop state-of-the-art applications in a prototype lab.
- Get ESRI-provided training focused on the department's academic specialty.
- Offer student recognition through an annual achievement award.
- Receive paid registration for up to two students or professors to the ESRI Developer Summit.
- Use the exclusive EDC logo on program materials.

An EDC can be housed in one department or be a multidisciplinary, stand-alone GIS center. Large universities need more than one EDC on a campus. The program will be announced in a special education session at the 2008 ESRI Developer Summit, 17-20 March, in Palm Springs, California.