

# AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **American Geographical Society Announces Inauguration of New AGS Fellows Program**

*Description: The “AGS Fellow” status is re-launched, with a prominent geospatial industry CEO calling for other members of industry, government, academe and the social sector to join him as part of a new generation of supporters for geographic knowledge, thinking, and education. This new cohort of AGS Fellows will empower geography professionals, and enthusiasts alike, to engage with their colleagues on a continuing basis to advance geographic understanding and how it can improve our nation and global society.*

[New York City, NY] – [April 10, 2015] -- The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced today the re-launch of its “AGS Fellow” affiliate status. “AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States, and has long convened business executives, leading academic researchers, not-for-profit leaders, and senior government officials to advance geographic understanding” said Dr. John Konarski, the Executive Director of AGS. “To further this mission, we are proud to revive our ‘AGS Fellows’ program, where these geography professionals and enthusiasts can come together as a community of peers to invest their time, resources and intellectual energies in transforming how America develops and leverages geographical knowledge for the benefit our nation and our global society...this new generation of AGS Fellows will help guide our organization, as well as the national discussion about the importance of geography in virtually every aspect of our lives”, added Konarski.

Today, the first AGS Fellow of this new generation was registered at the Society. Mr. Al Di Leonardo, President and CEO of HumanGeo, headquartered in Washington, DC, received the first AGS Fellows Certificate embossed with the original seal of AGS from 1851. HumanGeo is one of the nation’s leading developers of big data technology around data discovery, data enrichment, data architecture and data engineering with a focus on geospatial and social media applications.

“I am proud to be a part of the rebirth of the AGS Fellows program” said Mr. Di Leonardo. “I have had the privilege to serve as a leader in how both industry and government leverage geographic data and technology in their decision making. I have long been passionate about the need for improving geographic understanding within our country and around the world and I think the AGS Fellows program offers a unique opportunity for leaders from across industry, government, academe, and non-profits to invest themselves into helping everyone, from our children to our policymakers, to better understand the world around us. I encourage everyone to consider joining me as an AGS Fellow” added Di Leonardo.

The community of AGS Fellowship has been designed to be an interactive networking hub where opportunities to connect and promote are abundant. AGS Fellows receive many benefits in connection with the widely acknowledged AGS Annual Fall Symposium, Geography 2050, including a private Fellows reception in New York City during the Symposium, a 50% reduced rate for admission, and preference for chairing and participating in Symposium sessions. A special feature of the Fellows affiliation is that Fellows will be encouraged to connect to an engaging network of professionals through a private Google Group. This benefit will serve as a way to contribute to, and receive the current issues impacting the field on a daily basis.

Established in 1851, the American Geographical Society (AGS) is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education in geography for over 163 years. The mission of AGS is to advance geographic knowledge

and the recognition of its importance in the contemporary world. AGS promotes the use of geography in business, government, science, and education with a goal to enhance the nation's geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS is the only organization focused on bringing together academics, business people, those who influence public policy (including leaders in local, state and federal government, not-for-profit organizations and the media), and the general public for the express purpose of furthering the understanding of the role of geography in our lives. AGS provides leadership to frame the national discussion of the growing importance of geography and geospatial tools. The Society maintains its headquarters in Brooklyn Heights, New York.



*Dr. John Konarski (l), AGS Executive Director, congratulates Mr. Al Di Leonardo (r), the first AGS Fellow.*



*Ms. Selene Lawrence, AGS Communications and Outreach Manager embosses the certificate of the first AGS Fellow, Mr. Al Di Leonardo (r).*

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