

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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American Geographical Society Awards O.M. Miller Medal to Mr. Brian McClendon at Fall Symposium

Description: The O.M. Miller Medal, awarded by the American Geographical Society (AGS), is one of several prestigious honors given by the Society. Mr. Brian McClendon, Research Professor at Kansas University was awarded the medal on November 17th, 2017 during the AGS Fall Symposium, "Geography 2050: The Future of Mobility" at Columbia University.

[New York City, NY] – [November 27, 2017] — In recognition of his distinguished work which has changed the use of geospatial information in remarkable ways, the American Geographical Society (AGS) awarded the O.M. Miller Medal to Mr. Brian McClendon at the Society's Fall Symposium at Columbia University on November 17, 2017. Dr. Christopher Tucker, Chairman of AGS, Dr. Marie Price, President of AGS, and Dr. Deborah Popper, Vice President of AGS and Chair of its Honors and Awards Committee made the presentation.

Meeting the challenges of the 21st century requires extraordinary new tools, and McClendon has given us important ones. In his early career, he worked with Silicon Graphics developing high-end workstation 3D graphics. His work at Keyhole, a digital mapping software development company, became the underpinnings of Google Earth, Google Maps and Google Street View. In 2015 he left Google for Uber, hired for the express purpose of solving the navigation and routing problems inherent in Uber's business model. While there, McClendon worked to make Uber maps more effectively increase efficiency and eliminate frustration, thus improving driver and passenger satisfaction. He is currently a research professor at Kansas University, where he and his wife, have established the McClendon Engineering Scholarship, donated tablets for students, and provided a Google Liquid Galaxy interactive display.

"Brian's involvement with mapping has given us the critical tools which have transformed the way in which we interact with geospatial information." said Dr. Popper in a recent interview, "They have allowed us to share information readily and democratize geospatial information in important ways."

Mr. McClendon stated, "I am honored to receive the O.M. Miller Medal and thank the AGS for considering me. I have spent a large part of my career building more accurate maps. As we move to a future of self-driving-vehicles, maps will need even more accuracy and the closer we look, the more challenges we discover."

The O.M. Miller Medal was founded by the AGS Council in 1968 and acknowledges outstanding contributions in the field of cartography or geodesy. It was named for Mr. Miller whose brought forth new map projections, original survey methods and instrumentation, and pioneered developments in aerial photography, photogrammetry, and new cartographic techniques to geographic science. The AGS Fall Symposium is one of the most important and recognized geography/geospatial events in North America during the Fall Semester. Attendees include CEOs and senior executives from preeminent geospatial companies along with leading experts and representatives from government, not-for-profits, and academia.

The American Geographical Society (AGS) is a 21st century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a

pioneer in geographical research and education for over 166 years. The mission of AGS is to advance and promote geography in business, government, science, and education. Our goal is to enhance the nation's geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Marie Price (AGS President), Mr. Brian McClendon (Research Professor at University of Kansas), and Dr. Christopher Tucker (AGS Chair).

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