AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American Geographical Society Names Mr. Greg Babinski as EthicalGEO Fellow.

Description: The American Geographical Society (AGS) announces Mr. Greg Babinski, M.A., GISP, as a recipient of the 2019-2020 AGS EthicalGEO Fellowship.

[New York City, NY] – [October 9, 2019] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) has awarded Mr. Greg Babinski, M.A., GISP, an EthicalGEO Fellowship as a result of the Society's recent EthicalGEO Challenge. The EthicalGEO Challenge, in its first year and underwritten by Omidyar Network, solicited videos from across North America and was open to anyone with an interest in exploring the ethical issues involved with the use of geospatial tools and technology. Applicants were instructed to submit a three-minute video explaining their "big idea" or project to address ethics and the use of geospatial tools and technology.

Mr. Babinksi is the Marketing and Business Development Manager at the King County GIS Center in Seattle, Washington.

This opportunity will allow Mr. Babinski to pursue the development of best practices for using GIS for issues related to equity and social justice (ESJ). Many government agencies and non-profits are beginning to apply an equity lens to the development of policies and investments in projects and programs. ESJ policy professionals have an emerging awareness of the benefits that geographic data and geospatial technology provides to understand issues and develop public policy. GIS professionals have defined ethical obligations to society, but many struggle with how to make a positive contribution to ESJ related issues and data analysis. Mr. Babinski's work as an AGS EthicalGEO Fellow will allow him to advance the collaborative work of developing peer-reviewed GIS for equity and social justice best practices.

"We are very pleased to have selected Mr. Babinski to join this first group of EthicalGEO Fellows. Ethical issues related to the use of geo technology have captured the interest of the media, geo practitioners and everyday citizens. All of us use this technology on a daily basis...be it to find a location using our phones, analyse data in our jobs, or better understand leading headlines in the media. Our use of this technology and data raises serious ethical questions...privacy, ownership of data, use of data...this list is long and growing. Mr. Babinski and the other Fellows will lead the way to help us make better decisions as we rely more and more on geospatial tools and data to live our lives." said Dr. John Konarski, Chief Executive Officer of AGS.

Mr. Babinski will receive a $7,500 award to carry out his project, participate in a number of special activities and events over the course of the next 9 months, and present the results of his work in a public forum in June of 2020. For more information about Mr. Babinski's project and the EthicalGEO Initiative in general, visit www.ethicalgeo.org.

The American Geographical Society 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 168 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.

Mr. Greg Babinski

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