

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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American Geographical Society Awards George Davidson Medal

Description: The George Davidson Medal, awarded by the American Geographical Society (AGS), is one of several prestigious honors given by the Society. Dr. Dawn Wright, Chief Scientist of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) will receive the prize during the AGS Fall Symposium, to be held virtually later this month.

[New York City, NY] – [November 11, 2020] — The American Geographical Society announced today that Dr. Dawn Wright, Chief Scientist of the Environmental Systems Research Institute, has been selected to receive the 8th George Davidson Medal. The medal will be presented on Thursday, November 19, 2020 during the Society's annual Fall Symposium to be held online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The American Geographical Society partly grew from a deep love of ocean exploration. The George Davidson Medal reflects this passion. This medal seeks to recognize the "...exceptional achievement in research for exploration in the Pacific Ocean or the lands bordering therein." The medal is named after George Davidson, an American geodist who explored the western United States and Alaska, as well as the Pacific waters. He is primarily remembered for his 1907 paper *The Discovery of San Francisco Bay*. The medal was established by Davidson's daughter in 1946.

Dr. Wright is Chief Scientist of the Environmental Systems Research Institute, a world-leading geographic information system (GIS) software and data science company. Core to Esri's mission is to inspire and enable people to positively impact their future by connecting them with the geospatial knowledge needed to make the critical decisions shaping the planet. As Esri Chief Scientist, Dr. Wright reports directly to the Esri CEO with a mission of strengthening the scientific foundation for Esri software and services, while representing Esri to the international scientific community. She maintains an affiliated faculty appointment as Professor of Geography and Oceanography in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University.

Dr. Wright also maintains research interests in spatial data science; seafloor mapping, coastal/ocean informatics, and environmental education. She has authored or co-authored more than 150 articles and ten books on marine geographic information systems, hydrothermal activity and tectonics of mid-ocean ridges, and coastal/ocean informatics. "Dr. Wright, in so many ways, captures the essence and accomplishments that made Davidson such an icon." noted Dr. Deborah Popper, Vice President of AGS.

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 169 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 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.



Dr. Dawn Wright

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