UAA Professional Development Seminar Series

Preparing for NSRS Modernization:
NGS Regional Activity in Alaska

Presented by: Lynda Bell,
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ABSTRACT: The National Geodetic Survey and its predecessor agencies have collaborated with public and private organizations to establish reference stations at precisely determined locations over the last 200 years, setting a geodetic standard in precise positioning. NGS defines official geodetic datums for all federal mapping activities in the U.S as part of the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS).

Currently the NGS is working to remove inaccuracies in the existing datums of the US. By tracking the dynamic nature of the Earth, and giving users tools to account for it, NGS will provide a new National Spatial Reference System that is semi-dynamic. To support the Modernization of the NSRS, constituents across the U.S. have been working to improve geodetic control and to prepare to enhance the data base that forms the foundation for the new NSRS.

These improvements will continue to provide multiple data sets for digital elevation modeling, VDATUM gap closure, and improvements in coastal mapping in Alaska, becoming the basis for improved datum consistency as NGS prepares for NSRS Modernization.

BIO: Lynda is currently a full-time civil servant for the Department of Commerce, serving as the Alaska Regional Geodetic Advisor for NOAA’s National Geodetic Survey (NGS). She is duty stationed in Anchorage and serves as a liaison between NGS and its public, academic, and private sector customers within Alaska, providing guidance and assistance on geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System.

Lynda has also had the opportunity to serve several other federal agencies in the geospatial community, working as a Geophysicist and Senior Scientist at NASA’s Goddard
Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD and as a Sea Level Specialist at the National Park Service Headquarters in Fort Collins, CO both of which brought her to work in Alaska throughout her career.

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