It takes a different kind of effort to reach rural teachers

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We need more rural educators knowledgeable about geospatial technology.

• Expose
• Guide
• Inspire
More rural educators will mean:

More elementary and secondary students using GIS

Better pre-service exposure to geospatial technologies

Overcoming prior negative experiences with desktop GIS to understand analytical power of ArcGIS Online
Increase interest of students and teachers
Incorporate spatial concepts into classrooms
Use GeoInquiries as an entry point across all levels
Offer more opportunities to rural teachers
Go to where people are located
Acknowledge online interaction not completely sufficient
What does not always work?

- Delivering and trying to follow up on stand-alone workshops
- Integrating GIS into STEM schools and computer technology pathways in rural school districts
- Assuming that all rural schools have broadband internet access
Q1 In order to assess your familiarity with geospatial technology, please indicate how familiar you are with the following geospatial techniques (1 indicates no familiarity and 5 indicates a great deal of familiarity).

Q1 Please indicate how familiar you now are with the following geospatial techniques (1 indicates no familiarity and 5 indicates a great deal of familiarity).
What has worked?

• Find the person in the school who has a bent toward technology
• Engage agricultural and other GIS professionals
• Walk into a school with a Giant Map of the state
• Work with educational organizations that have strongholds in rural areas
• Keep showing up
Why have giant maps opened doors in rural areas?
This map provides locations of National Geographics Giant Map of Colorado to assist educators and explorers in identifying the nearest map that may be available for use or viewing. Each point has details with contact information and service area. You can find information about National Geographic's Giant Traveling Maps here and information about the Giant Map of Colorado here.
Geospatial technology is an entry point for geography and other disciplines.

Think about what is most effective for the schools and teachers, not for the organization delivering the professional development.
What action do you want to take?

Questions?