Columbia College seeks to develop a curriculum in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). GIS is a system of hardware, software and procedures designed to support the capture, management, manipulation, analysis, modeling and display of spatially referenced data for solving complex planning and management problems. GPS consists of systems of orbiting satellites and special GPS receivers which permit the GIS operator to determine precise latitudes, longitudes and elevations quickly and economically. The objectives of this curriculum grant will be to (1) collaborate with secondary schools and professionals, through an advisory board which seeks to engender support for curriculum development in GIS; (2), design and develop a curriculum in GIS/GPS for Columbia students, particularly women, minorities, persons with disabilities and individuals employed in the field; (3), develop 2+2+2 articulation agreements with secondary schools; and (4), procure necessary software.

The outcomes, or products of this project will include a curriculum project handbook on GIS/GPS, articulation agreements with secondary schools, and a formal evaluation of the software's effectiveness in the GIS/GPS environment.

Following a comprehensive formative and summative evaluation, the project's outcomes will be disseminated to various academic and scientific journals, conferences and appropriate secondary and postsecondary educational organizations. The unique features of the project will ensure both its success and the likelihood that others will emulate it.