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**Days of Budget Cutting, Sequestration and Shrinking Spending:
Strategies for Surviving in a Leaner Academic Environment**

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Abstract

In the short-term future, we can expect government funding for higher education to be reduced, partly as a continuation of current trends, but also in response to economic pressures. As all but one of the geomatics and surveying programs in the US are at state colleges and universities, these changes will affect the geomatics and surveying education sector in significant ways.

This presentation will focus on how reductions in government funding are most likely to have an impact on geomatics and surveying programs across the nation. The importance of two-year programs to the long-term success of US geomatics education is emphasized. A range of strategies for surviving budget cuts are suggested and discussed. The importance of changing a program's focus without changing its core is presented, together with the need to diversify income streams, both financial and student.

At present, there are not enough programs in the US to constitute serious competition, outside local perceptions. Co-operation and collaboration are keys to survival, and several strategies to increase efforts and effectiveness in this direction are suggested.

In summary, coming economic changes have the potential to have a severe, deleterious effect on the US geomatics and surveying education community, as well as the professions we serve. Survival strategies will require collective as well as individual action. SaGES is well placed to help built this collective effort.