

## **Correlation between State Licensing Requirement and Program Strength for Surveying/Geomatics Education**

Laramie V. Potts<sup>1</sup>, John B. Miima<sup>1</sup>, Joseph. Pavia<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>New Jersey Institute of Technology, University Heights, Newark, NJ 07102

<sup>2</sup>Geomatics & Business Consultant, St Louis, MO 63156

### **Abstract**

The undergraduate education in Surveying/Geomatics programs has traditionally been plagued by under enrollment. Cyclical contractions in employment opportunities are among the many factors that influence the ebb and flow of past enrollments. Dearth of student applications, juxtapose with academic program reviews that aim to ensure critical mass, have consolidated smaller programs as options in construction technology programs while other traditional Surveying/Geomatics programs were removed from college catalogues. The obscurity of Surveying/Geomatics programs and the public perception of the professional status do not bode well for the future of this much needed expertise. The strength and sustainability of Surveying/Geomatics programs in terms of its student enrollment, program duration, graduation rate, and graduate professional and/or academic career trajectories are essential ingredients on the health of the national geospatial mapping profession. Several recruitment approaches in the past have not yield much success. This paper evaluates the correlation between state disposition toward licensure and the strength of its surveying programs with the possibility of giving direction to state societies on how to create new incentives and awareness of career opportunities in geospatial mapping.

### **Keywords:**

Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), Geomatics Recruitment, PLS, Surveying, Licensure, GIS