The Geo-Institute's Academy of Geo-Professionals' Influence Grows
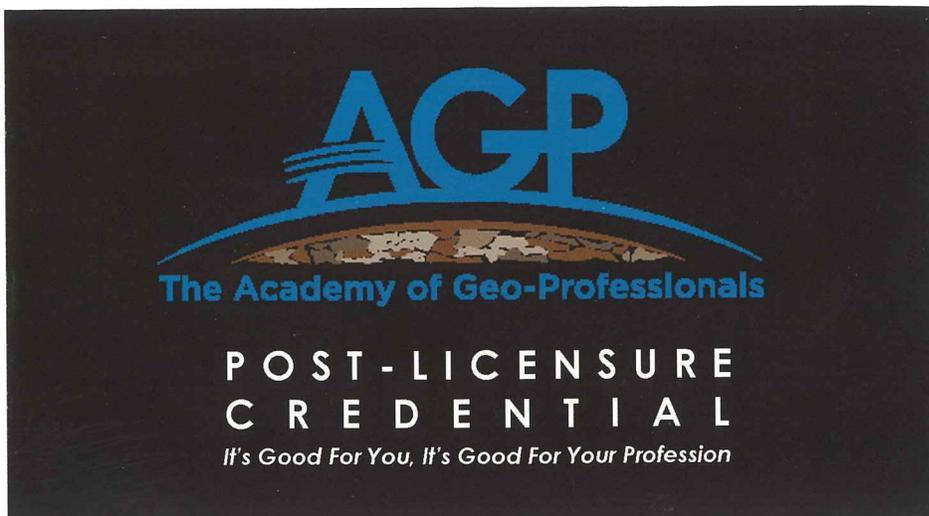
By Brian Sien, AGP Administrator

We have been reporting on the activities of ASCE's Geo-Institute's Academy of Geo-Professionals for several years. Many ADSC Members have received the Academy's Diplomate of Geotechnical Engineering Certification (D.GE). I was privileged to serve a three year term as a Trustee of the Academy's Board of Directors. Many of the current Directors are ADSC Members. (Editor)

On October 1, 2008, the Academy of Geo-Professionals opened its doors as a voluntary, post-licensure certification program, available to practicing geotechnical engineers holding a P.E. license, Masters degree or equivalent, and at least eight years of progressive post-licensure experience. *Five years later, AGP has certified over 250 Diplomates, Geotechnical Engineering (D.GEs), established a Body of Knowledge, founded eight committees, conducted exams via video conference and has a brand new website to boot. In addition, the last year has seen two RFPs (Request For A Proposal) that have requested certification beyond licensure.* One of those two RFPs came from the Kansas City Section of the Army Corp of Engineers and specifically requested an engineer with D.GE certification. The other came from the State of Indiana for a bridge project, and requested certification from a nationally recognized entity. As the Academy continues to mature, we expect to see more of these types of prerequisites in contract documents.

AGP Examination Process

Good news to those of you who want to apply for D.GE certification but are worried about the additional time or money needed to take an exam. The AGP now conducts exams on Skype! The Examination Committee began this process earlier this year with half a dozen exams completed to date utilizing this streamlined method. Many of the 250 D.GEs were not required to take an examination, as this practice is generally waived for qualified candidates with more than 25 years of experience. The exam consists of the candidate presenting a project on which they have worked, and answering questions about the project from a three member panel. The exam generally takes one hour to complete.

Strategic Planning

In 2012, in order to help shape the future of the Academy, the AGP conducted a strategic planning session. As a result of that activity several new committees have been formed. These new entities now join the already established Application, Examination and Ethics Committees.

New AGP Committees

These committees seek ways to further market, and promote, D.GE certification, with each tackling a different area of focus. If you are interested in assisting AGP with this endeavor, please visit the organization's website: www.geoprofessionals.org/committtee.html.

- Engineering Leadership
- Public Infrastructure
- AIA
- Younger Members
- ASCE

PowerPoint Presentation

The first step for the Engineering Leadership Committee was to put together a Power Point presentation that can be presented to large A/E firms. In order to develop the message of the value of certification the committee met in person this past spring at the Annual G-I Congress, and continued meeting via teleconference. The presentation was refined and tweaked during the past summer. Finally, the committee was ready to make a pilot presentation to **Parsons Brinckerhoff** at its New York City office. **John Pizzi** and ADSC Members **Allen Cadden** and then-AGP President, **Steven Thorne**, made the presentation to **Ray Castillo** and other key people at Parsons Brinckerhoff. The committee plans on making many presentations over the next several years.

Of further interest is that the Academy is undergoing a new web design. This new site will be simpler, cleaner, visually exciting, and will include a search function to help visitors find what they are looking for quickly and easily. Please visit the new and improved website at: www.geoprofessionals.org.

Foundation Drilling magazine welcomes submittals from its Technical Affiliate Members. Send submittals to: scotlitke@att.net.

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