



2020 IMAGIN ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

August 19, 2020 – Held Virtually via GoToMeeting



IMAGIN'S GEOSPATIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The IMAGIN Geospatial Achievement Award honors an IMAGIN member in recognition of their dedication and commitment to the IMAGIN organization, its geospatial professionals, colleagues, members and the public that it serves.

The 2020 Geospatial Achievement Award Winner Is...



2020 IMAGIN GEOSPATIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

Ann Burns
Manager of
Geospatial
Technology,
SEMCOG



2020 IMAGIN GEOSPATIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER – ANN BURNS

ANN'S PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- B.S. in Geography, Central Michigan University, 1991
- Started as GIS Planning Analyst for SEMCOG, 1992
- Started GIS department at Waterford Twp, 1997
- M.S. in Geography, Eastern Michigan University, 1998
- Returned to SEMCOG as GIS Coordinator, 1999
- IMAGIN Board of Directors, 2000-2005
- IMAGIN Secretary 2002-2004
- Became Assistant IT Manager, 2008
- Promoted to Geospatial Technology Manager, 2011



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From Ann's Peers

- Jim Bennett, retired
 - *"I first got to know Ann when we served on the IMAGIN Board and I was immediately impressed with her professionalism, dedication to GIS, and her good nature. It was clear she recognized early on the need for high quality geospatial data to power good analysis and applications, and has developed and maintained datasets that have been instrumental in helping to launch robust GIS operations at SEMCOG and across southeast Michigan. She has also been a leader in the community of GIS, through ongoing support of IMAGIN, the SEMCOG quarterly GIS meetings, focused training, partnering with member communities for 7 county orthophotography and other projects, and this is just to name a few. This reward is richly deserved and I'm very happy to congratulate my friend and colleague, way to go Ann!"*



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From Ann's Peers

- Jennifer Wills, Oakland County

“While many of you have had the opportunity to work directly with Ann and witness her accomplishments in a professional setting, I have had that opportunity throughout my entire life, literally. I am not only a fellow GIS professional but I am also Ann’s (younger) sister. So it is no surprise to me that she would be honored in a setting like this. Ann will always give 100% to any project, task, or challenge. She won’t stop until the goal is met. She has always had an incredible work ethic while finding that great balance to treat people with respect and motivate them to also accomplish great things. Congratulations Ann, it is a great honor to call you my (older) sister as you are recognized by the GIS community. You have done wonderful things within this industry and I know there is more to come. Congrats, keep up the good work!!”

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From Ann's Peers

- Tammy Shepherd, Oakland County

"Ann has been an incredible asset to the profession and I feel lucky to call her a friend and colleague. GIS is a combination of people, data and systems and Ann's work has greatly enhanced and developed all three of these elements in our community. Her work in attracting talent and developing people has seeded the region and state with high quality GIS professionals. Her work in developing data and systems has elevated the value of GIS and government as a whole for the citizens we serve. Our community is a better place because of the quality of the programs that Ann has developed and managed so skillfully at SEMCOG.

Thank you Ann, for your service, and congratulations on this amazing honor. It is so well deserved!"

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From Ann's Peers

- Everett Root, State of Michigan

“Ann’s leadership in Southeast Michigan, and the professional relationships she has built throughout the State of Michigan, have been instrumental in numerous programs that the Michigan GIS community benefit from every day. Congratulations on this well-deserved award!”

- Scott Oppmann, Esri

“Ann has led the steady growth of GIS in southeast Michigan for many years. Her leadership has helped many communities in the region grow their technical capacity and save countless dollars at the same time. Congratulations Ann, you are a very deserving IMAGIN Geospatial Achievement Award winner.”



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From Ann's Peers

- Matt Malone, City of Farmington Hills

“First off, I've known Ann for roughly the past two decades based on our common attendance at GIS conferences and meetings. Based upon the breadth of her work over that time, I can unequivocally state that she is deserving of this prestigious award for her contributions to the geospatial profession. If one considers the scope of the geographic area SEMCOG handles in terms of data, it's nothing short of amazing that Ann and her team can create compelling GIS apps that integrate disparate datasets from dozens of municipalities (I can attest that just one municipality can be handful!). Ann has also been an invaluable fixture at our Oakland County GIS Steering Committee meetings, with her reports of SEMCOG data activities and of course, the regional coordination of our vital aerial photography flights. She's always been eager to assist and offer her geospatial knowledge when I've called upon it in the past, which I was grateful to receive, and the mark of a true professional. I wish her all the best on this well deserved and earned award!”

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From Ann's Peers

- Michael Cousins, OHM Advisors
"Ann is one of my favorite clients, colleagues, and friend that I have met. She is always a joy to be around and talk with. She [is] insightful & innovative in her approach and knows when to ask for assistance. Congratulations Ann!"
- Sarah Schrader, Esri
"Congratulations Ann on this well-deserved recognition! During my time working with Ann, I have known her to be very involved in the GIS community through SEMCOG and other users group meetings. She's always looking to connect with others and share her knowledge and experience but also learn from other agencies and their great work."
- Michael McBain, City of Royal Oak
"Congratulations Ann! Well deserved"



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From Ann's Peers

- Chad Misiuk, SEMCOG

“Ann is a leader in the GIS world and is well known in our community and it shows when you work with her. She has the ability to create connections amongst all of us which gives us a great network to use for help and guidance. The Southeast Michigan GIS User Group has grown into such an amazing opportunity for our community to come together and it would be nothing without her work and support. Ann has a great insight into GIS and is great at considering the impacts a system, map or tool will have on the end user. I enjoy working for Ann and it is great that she won this award!”



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From Ann's Peers

- Jim Miller, HRC

“Ann and I do go way back, I think we first met in the early 90’s when I was working for the Census Bureau and she was starting out at SEMCOG. That is back in the day of the first TIGER files! SEMCOG and Ann were a great source of information and a conduit to all the County and local government agencies. I think it was in the early 2000’s that we organized a series of GIS workshops together, which was a lot of work but very rewarding to get so many of the GIS experts together to discuss the technical issues of the day. We have certainly come a long way since then, but here we are organizing an ArcGIS Hub to coordinate all the utility data for the SEMCOG service area!

Ann really epitomizes the goal of Improving Michigan’s Access to Geographic Information Networks! Ann’s career has been focused on providing data and analysis, and bringing clarity to our geospatial challenges. This award couldn’t go to a better person!!



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CONGRATULATIONS

ANN BURNS

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