



Commissioner Reger appoints David Arbeit as state's first chief geospatial information officer

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(ST. PAUL) – Administration Commissioner Sheila Reger today announced the appointment of David Arbeit as State Chief Geospatial Information Officer (CGIO).

As CGIO, Arbeit will oversee the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office, created by the 2009 Legislature to coordinate geospatial information technology and its use across state government.

Arbeit joined state government in 1994 as director of the Land Management Information Center (LMIC), the predecessor of the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office. He has served as director of the Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis, a division of the Department of Administration, since 2005, overseeing the programs of LMIC, the State Demographer, the State Archaeologist and the Environmental Quality Board. He holds an undergraduate degree in engineering and master's and doctoral degrees in regional planning from Cornell University.

“David’s 35-plus years as an educator, researcher and practitioner in this field and his vision for the future of geospatial information management in Minnesota government will be critical to the development and success of the MGIO,” said Commissioner Reger. “As project leader of this Drive to Excellence initiative, he is uniquely qualified to lead this new organization as the state’s first CGIO.”

Geographic information growth within government, and the public’s awareness of it, has exploded over the past five years. As the cost and complexity of the technology have decreased and Google Earth, MapQuest and automobile navigation systems have become familiar, geospatial information activity and interest within all levels of government have steadily increased. Some uses of geospatial information in government include disaster and security planning, flood mitigation, building and resource location, boundary identification and illness and disease incidence.

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