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## **SPATIAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION**

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper describes a project focusing on the need to enhance communication and understanding between higher education and the K-12 system through the use of spatial information technologies, specifically geographic information systems (GIS), global positioning systems (GPS), remotely sensed data (RS) and the Internet. The project has developed materials and identified data through an interactive exchange between Colorado State University graduate students studying information technology for resource management and K-12 teachers. The outcome of the project is twofold: 1) to help K-12 students meet content standards of geography: “how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools and technology to acquire, process and report information from a spatial perspective” (National Geography Standard, 1994, p. 106); and 2) to bridge the gap between higher education and K-12 by providing CSU graduate students with an opportunity to apply spatial information technology skills. Content of exercises developed by CSU graduate students focuses on specific natural resource management issues.