



Students in Harper College's Adelante Academy summer enrichment program learn mapping principles in Assistant Professor Mukila Maitha's Geographic Information Systems class. Harper will launch a GIS certificate program in fall 2015. *(Courtesy of Harper College)*

**Submitted by Harper College** Posted 7/31/2015 11:18 AM

Yaresma Zavala recently got a glimpse into a major demographic shift.

Using 20 years of U.S. Census data and Geographic Information Systems technology, she designed a series of maps showing how Hispanics have increasingly settled in Chicago's surrounding suburbs instead of the city.

The GIS lesson came during this year's Adelante Academy, a four-week summer enrichment program that Harper College is currently holding for in-district

getting a taste of how to use spatial data and mapping principles in Assistant Professor Mukila Maitha's GIS class.

Starting in September, Harper will launch a Geographic Information Systems certificate program that can be completed within a year. Students can also earn a Database Management certificate.

"If you've used Google Maps, aerial photography or even seen a digital map, then you've seen geographic information systems in action," Maitha said.

"It's a suite of technologies and expertise used to understand our world and solve problems using geography."

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, GIS occupations such as remote sensing and precision agriculture technicians are projected to grow "much faster than average" between 2010 and 2020. And the average salary for GIS systems analysts is nearly \$65,000, Urban and Regional Information Systems Association data shows.

GIS is woven into just about every industry. The technology allows users to visualize data in the form of interactive maps, making it easier to understand information and discover patterns and trends.

"Even if you're not a GIS technician, GIS is used in a variety of fields, from engineering and fire science to business and anthropology," Associate Professor and Geography Department Chairman Veronica Mormino said. "There are so many disciplines where GIS is needed."

Courses for Harper's GIS certificate program begin Sept. 21. Classes are blended, meaning there's a combination of traditional in-person and online instruction.

# Daily Herald

Suburban Chicago's Information Source

---

---

Copyright © 2023 Paddock Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, IL 60006

Paddock Publications, Inc. is an Employee-Owned Company