



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Kent County Receives Special Achievement Award for Exceptional Application of Geospatial Technology**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – Kent County staff is always looking for ways to make it easier for the general public to access the information they need, when they need it. The Kent County Information Technology Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Team was honored internationally, receiving a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the 2015 Esri International User Conference in San Diego, California recently. This award acknowledges vision, leadership, hard work, and innovative use of GIS technology.

Kent County used Esri technology to create web-based technologies for users from Kent County staff to the general public, in order to get GIS data for their specific needs. We currently have applications built for Silverlight, Android, iOS and ArcGIS Online. We've also created a data downloads library on our website to allow users to download shapefiles of various GIS data layers.

"Our team makes it possible for residents to get information they need in a timely manner," said Craig Paull, Director of Kent County Information Technology. "The staff created a data library to eliminate the need for a GIS staff member to cut out data and send it to a user. This allows consumers to download the data for their project area directly to their computer."

In addition to Kent County, Esri honored more than 170 organizations from around the world and across a variety of industries including agriculture, cartography, climate change, defense and intelligence, economic development, education, government, health and human services, telecommunications, and utilities. Congratulations to the Kent County IT-GIS team:

Elliott Lowe - GIS Analyst  
Brodey Hill - GIS Analyst, GISP  
Patrick Lowman - Programmer  
Janice Rockburn - Team Lead, GISP

For more information about the 2015 Special Achievement in GIS Award winners, please visit [esri.com/sag](http://esri.com/sag). A link to the photo of Elliott Lowe receiving the award can be found [here](#).

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