

Thursday, April 7, 2011

## Local tech organization teams up with El Camino

PVNET, El Camino College GIS combine to provide a unique educational experience for college students.

The class, "Introduction to GIS," will be taught by Dr. Stephen Koletty, an experienced GIS (geographic information systems) instructor and professional cartographer, and will focus on the art and theory of communicating through maps. There will be more than 20 students, many with no prior mapmaking experience. Koletty and Palos Verdes on the

NET Director Ted Vegvari worked together to introduce a work-force-development aspect into the class.

For this class, PVNET staff developed a three-month project-based curriculum incorporating community service to local cities to develop a disaster planning hazard map, something every city needs. PVNET's philosophy is to provide education through community service.

Students will commence their GIS training by going through the many problems that come up during performing GIS work, such as when converting a not-quite-sphere into a flat surface. The students will be divided into teams of five to

six students, each assigned to a different region of the South Bay. Each team will collect information that could be relevant in an emergency situation.

PVNET is making this GIS class available at no cost. The GIS program offered by PVNET is made possible by Jack Dangermond, CEO and founder of ESRI, the developer of the number one GIS software and technology company in the world. Dangermond is the key sponsor of the GIS training software program used at PVNET to provide free training and work force experience to students of all ages.

