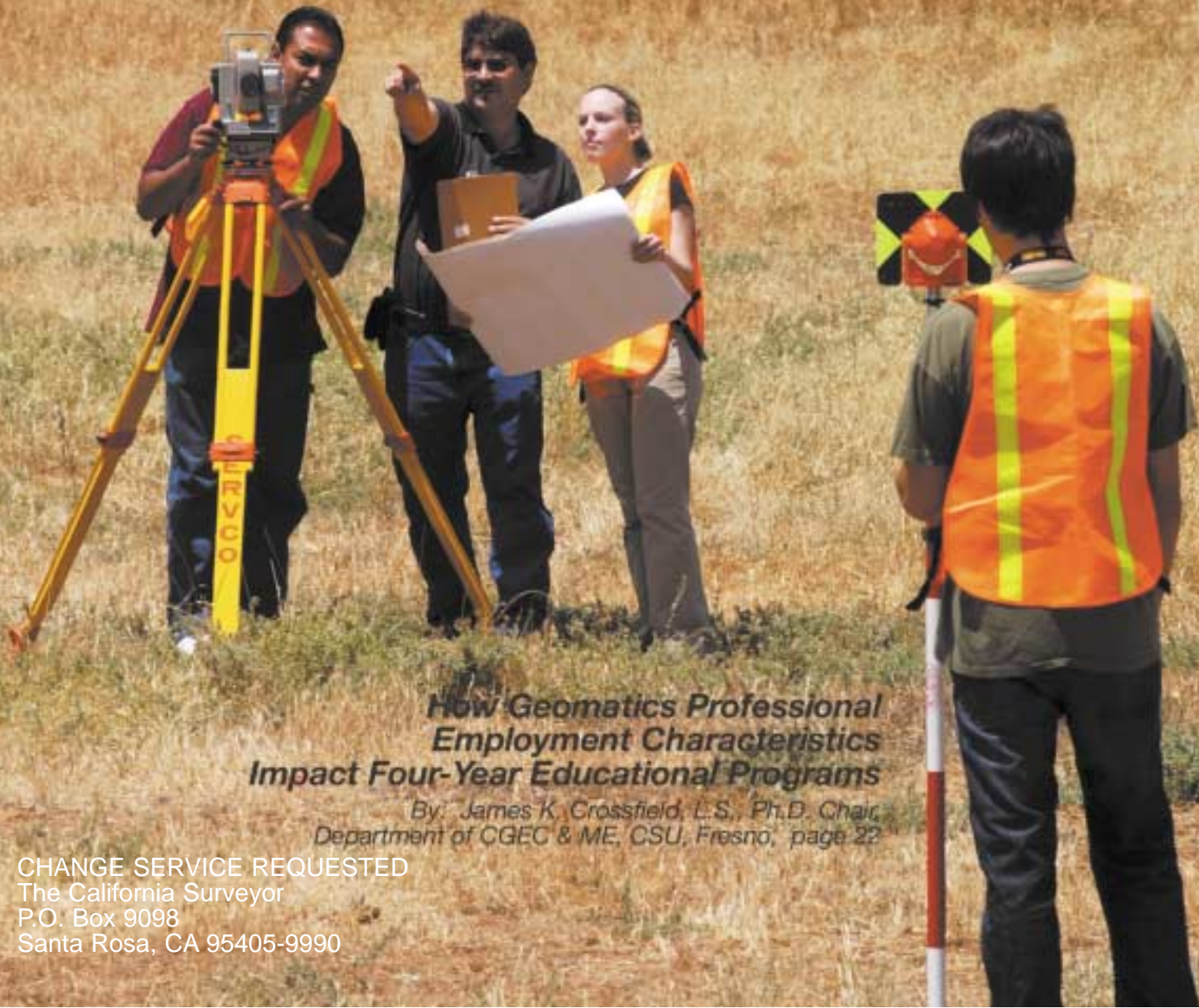


# **SURVEYOR** *California*

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## **Mapping the Course for Future Surveyors**

*By: Santiago Canyon College, page 34*



### ***How Geomatics Professional Employment Characteristics Impact Four-Year Educational Programs***

*By: James K. Crossfield, L.S., Ph.D. Chair,  
Department of CGEC & ME, CSU, Fresno, page 22*

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# Mapping the Course for Future Surveyors



for surveying and mapping technicians is even greater, with estimated growth of 28 percent by the end of the decade. This raises the question, what is being done to ensure that qualified, experienced professionals are ready to meet the demand just as many current surveyors near retirement age?

## ***Step 1: Increasing Awareness of the Profession***

Santiago Canyon College (SCC) in Orange offers both an associate degree and a certificate in survey/mapping sciences. With the **only** comprehensive program among Southern California's community colleges, student enrollment has grown by 214 percent over the last three years.

We're already widely known as a great place to prepare for the Land Surveyor-in-Training (LSIT) and Land Surveyor (LS) examinations, says Jeremy Evans, Santiago Canyon College's Survey/Mapping Sciences program facilitator, who is also the vice president and technical director of surveying at Psomas in Costa Mesa. Now we're concentrating on training people for entry-level positions in the field to meet the huge numbers who will be needed over the next decade.

Many of these future surveyors are today's high school juniors and seniors. To let them know about the many career opportunities with good salaries that exist in the surveying field, Santiago Canyon College is hosting Southern California's first Trig Star event on Saturday, March 4, 2006 (see sidebar for more information).

## ***Step 2: Provide High Quality, Affordable Training***

Our program provides an excellent foundation for those looking to enter the challenging, rewarding field of surveying and mapping sciences, Evans said. Students who successfully com-

As land development throughout California continues at a rapid rate, so does the need for experienced and licensed surveyors. According to the State of California's Employment Development Department, the occupational outlook for surveyors includes an 11 percent increase through the year 2010. The need



plete the five classes (17 units) in the certificate program are qualified for entry-level surveying and mapping jobs in both the public and private sectors. Classes are available during evening hours and on Saturdays to accommodate busy schedules.

Taught by professionals working in the field, students receive a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on-training using the latest software technology, including ArcView 9.0, ArcGIS 9.0, Bentley InRoads/MicroStation, AutoCad and Microsoft Project. Field equipment used includes total stations, digital levels and GPS.

For those already employed in the field who meet the work experience requirements, Santiago Canyon College offers Land Surveyor-in-Training (LSIT) and Land Surveyor (LS) exam preparation coursework. Obtaining professional licensure makes sense in terms of career opportunities and earning potential. California's Employment Development Department's Occupational Guide lists the average surveyors salary in the state (in 2002) as \$58,707 per year, with survey/mapping technicians averaging \$45,407 per year. And as demand increases for both entry-level and experienced professionals, so do salaries.

Compared with four-year universities, Santiago Canyon College's comprehensive survey and mapping sciences program is a bargain at just \$26 per unit. **Registration is now underway for spring semester classes that begin February 6, 2006.** For more information call (714) 628-4883 or check out the website at [www.sccollege.edu/survey](http://www.sccollege.edu/survey). ❖





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### Who will be the 2006 Trig Stars?

Santiago Canyon College's Career Education division is proud to host Southern California's first Trig Star event on Saturday, March 4, 2006. Open to local high school and community college students 16 years and older, the fun, free event serves as an introduction to careers in surveying. Local engineering firms and others who employ surveyors are invited to exhibit and talk to students about careers in the industry.

"We are pleased to offer the first Trig Star competition in Orange County as a major kick-off event to promote surveying careers to high school students and their parents," said Tricia Evans, dean of career education at Santiago Canyon College. "Local community college students are also invited to participate."

Students will compete for cash and prizes in the Trig Star trigonometry test and Survey Challenge. The event also will feature continental breakfast and a barbeque lunch, informational exhibits and an overview of surveying career information and equipment.

Trig Star is sponsored by the Orange County Chapter of California Land Surveyors Association and is part of a nationwide competition of the National Society of Professional Surveyors. The event is facilitated by Vital Link Orange County.

For exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Vital Link Orange County at (949) 646-2520 or e-mail [Bonnie@vitalinkoc.org](mailto:Bonnie@vitalinkoc.org).