



Teachers'  
Program for  
Global Studies,  
Clark  
University,  
Worcester, MA  
01610

Spring Newsletter 2013

www.massgeo.org

### In This Issue:

- **Geography Bill**
- **Geography at the State House**
- **Leadership Institute**
- **Professional Development Programs**

**Introduction:** Welcome member of the Massachusetts Geographic Alliance! The Massachusetts Geographic Alliance (MGA) is a grassroots organization of hundreds of Massachusetts teachers who are dedicated to improving geography education in Massachusetts. It is one of the fifty state geography alliances affiliated with the National Geographic Society.

## Highlights from the past year and notes going forward



### **A Geographic Education bill in the Massachusetts legislature:**

We have re-filed our geography education bill in the Statehouse that would establish a Geography Education Commission to examine geography education in Massachusetts. We have a new state legislature which requires new action. We will be calling on you to help advance this bill. ([Bill S.200](#))

### **Geography at the State House:**

On May 3rd we had an opportunity to enlarge the visibility of geography education and to impress on our legislators how valuable geography education can be for our students. EarthView, the 20 foot globe, was inflated in the Nurses' Hall and legislators and their aides had a chance to go inside the earth and engage in discussions on the nature and value of geography education. We will again be at the Statehouse in the spring of 2013 - May 6th this year.





**Sathwik Karnick** of King Phillip Middle School, Norfolk, MA is the official winner of the 2013 National Geographic Bee.

(Left: Sathwik Karnick & Asst. Superintendent Dr. Susan Gilson  
Right: Professor James Bohanan-Hayes, Arlene Kowal, Sathwick Karnick, & Prof. Vernon Domingo



### Leadership Institute:



During July of 2012, the MGA participated, together with the other New England geography alliances (NEGEN), in a four-day leadership institute, held at Elms College in Chicopee. Two new potential leaders from each state had the opportunity to think strategically about where we want to go as geography education alliances and how we can more effectively involve all of the state steering committee members in this work. Barbara Bys and Robert Poirier very ably represented Massachusetts; you will hear more from them as they proceed on one of their tasks which is to get all of us thinking about and implementing an effective fundraising plan. We will continue with a second leadership institute in July of 2013 to be held in Connecticut.

### Professional development programs:

Even with all of the work on strategic planning, there were many professional development workshops offered around the state; at MGA regional centers; at affiliated organizations; at NERC 2012 in Sturbridge where MGA presented a program on the National Geography Standards; and at NERC 2013 where MGA presented several geography themed workshops. The annual Geography Fair at Bridgewater was again a great success and is a program that we hope can be replicated in other parts of the state. In addition MGA continued its tradition of presenting the student winners at the state Geography Bee and at the state History Day program each with a National Geographic World Atlas. These activities will be repeated. Hope to see you at the next NERC in April!



**We look forward to your involvement in geography education in Massachusetts**

**Arlene Kowal and Vernon Domingo**  
Coordinators, Massachusetts Geographic Alliance



This project is funded, in whole or in part, by a grant from the National Geographic Society Education Foundation.

**Contact Us by Email:**

**Arlene Kowal**

[akowal@clarku.edu](mailto:akowal@clarku.edu)

**Vernon Domingo**

[vdomingo@bridgew.edu](mailto:vdomingo@bridgew.edu)