Geospatial Science Information

- The JMU Geospatial Semester is a nationally recognized program, through which nearly 5,000 students have received JMU credit across the state over the 13 years it has been in existence. Of the nearly 5,000 students state-wide, 1,786 students have been LCPS students.

- The course does have a DE and non-DE option…students can take the course without registering for the JMU credit

- The course does carry a fee of $558 and a one-time $20 application fee. This is 68% off the normal JMU tuition rate. The fee is to cover the cost of a professor coming into the class once per month to instruct the students…something that no other dual-enrollment course offers. Because of that, the JMU professor is the teacher of record at JMU, not an LCPS teacher. JMU hands the day-to-day teaching to an LCPS teacher after training that teacher and acts as a mentor throughout the year. In my role, I also help train the teacher initially, and provide abundant support over the first few years of teaching the course.

- There is financial assistance available for students that demonstrate a need (typically receive free-reduced lunch)

- To date, the only institutions that have not accepted the JMU transfer credit have been the military institutions and a Poly Tech school in Philadelphia.

- The course is a general elective course due to the wide-range of use in industry. This means that any teacher can teach the course. Currently we have both Social Science and Science teachers teaching the course…and some school systems have CTE teachers that teach the course.

- Deemed a high growth industry by the Department of Labor, Geospatial Technology is poised to see a job growth of between 16% and 35% by 2020 as compared to 2010. (Snaptrends, 2016). A Geo-Buiz 2018 report states that the economic impact of the geospatial industry between 2013 and 2017 grew from $1.1 trillion to $2.2 trillion and doubled the industry's revenue growth during that time. Due to the industry demand for trained workers, Geospatial Science students are having success landing internships right out of high school, and many have not only chosen to study geospatial technology in college, but are now out of school and working in the industry.