

## GLIS earns a “little credit” in Texas

—by *Robert Young*

Rene Garcia and Robert Young, both officers of the Geographic and Land Information Society (GLIS), invested time and resources on December 5th to deliver two four-hour courses on GIS-related topics at Tyler Junior College in Texas.

Participants earned four CEUs for each course, whose topics focused on leadership and mentoring—in “Business: The Human Element”—and hands-on experimentation with ESRI’s ArcReader, in “GIS as an Effective Tool to Manage Survey Data.” GLIS earned credit for demystifying some of the mysterious powers of GIS.

The sessions were intentionally packed with information about different aspects of GIS and GIS-related work, allowing participants to “connect the dots” leading from GIS to base maps, and back, and to consider such important aspects of GIS projects as work flows, use of State Plane Coordinates, resources to “enhance” base maps, using base data to prepare jobs, and future follow-up. Use of aerial data and other imagery to enhance geographic databases and how to link them were addressed as well.

The technical concepts introduced during the morning lecture were then re-inforced in the practical, hands-on afternoon session. During this session, participants worked on their laptops with a GIS data set for Smith County, Texas, using ESRI’s ArcReader to view various types of useful county-level data. On completion of the courses, each participant carried away a DVD with the data set they worked on and a copy of ArcReader. The DVD also contains the course lectures, should participants wish to go over them at their own pace.