

Great Basin College Land Surveying/Geomatics Program Graduates



Ron Wilhoit

Ron Willhoit (Fall 2011) was licensed in Kentucky before choosing to earn his BAS Degree in Land Surveying/Geomatics from Great Basin College. An exceptional student, he assisted in identifying weak spots in the Program and finding solutions for these problems. As his capstone project, he developed an instructional module for the SUR 320 GIS for Land Surveyors course consisting of step by step instruction on how to input a local Elko subdivision plat into ESRI ArcGIS software creating a parcel fabric. Much credit for the current quality of the Program is due to Ron's ability to communicate and his patience in demanding the best GBC could offer. I have always been driven by the passion of attaining a four-year degree to complement my associate degree professional courses in order to add value to my career. For me, I must say, I welcomed the online program offered by the Great Basin College in Land survey/Geomatics program as a moment of joy in my life. I first learned about the program as I perused through the POB magazine classified advertising, where I later gained interest in it. It has been more than thirty-five years since I received my associate degree, and about twenty-three years since I passed the NCEE LSIT & LS and got a license to practice land survey in the State of Kentucky. It has not been an easy road towards achieving a four-year degree. I had earned my associate degree in 1978. Since then I enrolled in related courses from one college to another trying to achieve my goal, earning over 156 college credits, but never attaining a four year degree. This was mainly because of the fact that most of the courses I wanted to enroll in, the colleges' mode of study was never offered either in the evening or part-time, but only in fulltime. More so, because I had a fulltime job and family responsibilities, the only choice was to quit my job, which would have proved to be costly. I had many expectations for the degree program, but I must acknowledge that the program GBC offers surpassed my expectations by far due to its uniqueness and student-focused learning. Dr. Elithorp was quick to reply to my earlier letter to him about the four-year degree program, whereby he provided me with a personal learning plan, which finally became my road map to success. Unlike other colleges or universities, the Great Basin College took time to prepare a study outline for my benefit. The studies allowed me to participate in the course work, clarify what I do not understand while at the same time exposing me to fieldwork activities to enhance my understanding in my studies. Though it took me three years to complete the four-year program, the courses came with its challenges, while at the same time demanding my full attention with no breaks at all. I began the program in the fall of 2008 and by the fall of 2011, I was through; attaining 52 college credits, averaging just above 7 credited hours per seminar with a GPA of 3.73. This was a great achievement for me. My studies at GBC came along with so much benefit. More so, it helped me achieve my professional goal of attaining a BAS in Land surveying/Geomatics, which is job related. The BAS from GBC resulted in an educational achievement award from the Kentucky

Transportation/Personnel Cabinet. It is required in Nevada and many other states in order for one to be confirmed as a professional and be issued with a license to practice. I do not intend to stop here after accomplishing academic honors; this was just a stepping-stone towards a brighter future ahead. I shall continue to practice in the geomatics field with an emphasis to further my skills and learn about 3-D Laser Scanning, High definition Survey, LIDAR, and improve the recordation of boundary survey both for the private and public sector with a dream of one day surveying in the Public Land System.