

# CHRISTOPHER J. BESSERT

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## EDUCATION:

Major: Geography with a concentration in Cartography and Remote Sensing  
Minor: Journalism  
Bachelor of Science Degree  
Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48859  
Graduated: December 16, 1995

## CAREER EXPERIENCES:

### GIS Coordinator

Kalamazoo County Government, Kalamazoo, Michigan

March 2014 to Present

*Serve as the coordinator of all Geographic Information Systems (GIS) activities across County government.*

*Duties include:*

- Develop new and maintain existing GIS layers
- Perform analyses and answer spatial queries
- Document current and new procedures
- Maintain metadata
- Act as GIS liaison within County
- Educate and assist GIS users
- Coordinate current and new GIS projects.

*Major projects include:*

- Development and deployment of ArcGIS Server
- Replacing outmoded online mapping system with a new environment
- Deployment of various data layers in support of centralized emergency dispatch system
- Creation of various publications, including the Official County Road Map

### GIS Analyst

Allegan County Land Information Services, Allegan, Michigan

May 2008 to March 2014

*Responsible for various processes across the department. Activities include:*

- Creation, retrieval and analysis of geographic information
- Maintaining a wide variety of GIS data and maps of the county utilizing MapInfo 10.5, ArcGIS 9 and other applications.
- Coordinate documentation and preparation of user training materials
- Create the Official County Road Map biannually, and the Allegan County Road Atlas, Street Guide & Parcel Platbook
- Work collaboratively through several cross-functional teams on website design and maintenance, web-based applications, and employee engagement activities.

### GIS Specialist

REGIS, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, Grand Rapids, Michigan

February 2001 to March 2008

*Supported application development and deployment, data coordination and editing, as well as user training and support within one of the largest multi-participatory GIS projects in the nation with over 20 members. Responsibilities included testing and deployment of ArcGIS 9 environment, assisting with the development of GIS applications, coordinating editing and maintenance of numerous data layers, helping link GIS with CAD and hardcopy data, and coordinating user training and communication. Also, webmaster for REGIS and web support for all other GVMC websites.*

### Cartographer & GIS Management, Freelance

January 1998 to Present

*Occasional freelancing on a variety of cartographic, GIS, GPS, transportation planning, and other related projects. Some projects have included mapping for tourism, snowmobiling, and other recreational pursuits. I have also assisted with regional transportation planning data collection and document layout and design. Some of these projects are viewable at [www.chrisbessert.org/portfolio](http://www.chrisbessert.org/portfolio).*

### GIS Analyst/System Engineer

Electronic Data Systems, Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids, Michigan

February 1996 to January 2000

### Research Mapping Assistant & Internship

Central Michigan University, Department of Geography, Mount Pleasant, Michigan

May to December 1995

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**COMPUTER SKILLS:**

Experience with Microsoft Windows, MacOS, UNIX, and various mobile computing platforms. I use a variety of software, including GIS, vector-based illustration applications, database software, word processing, and desktop publishing applications. Also, experience with web-based programming, coding in HTML and website management. The following is a listing of many of the programs and tools I use or have used regularly:

- **Geographic Information Systems:** ArcGIS 10 (ArcMap), ArcGIS Server, ArcGIS Online, ArcSDE, MapInfo 10.5, MapBasic, QuantumGIS, Avenza Maps, AccuGlobe, Google Earth, familiarity with RoadSoft, TransCAD, Microstation and others
- **Vector Graphics:** Adobe Illustrator, Macromedia FreeHand, Adobe Fireworks
- **Desktop Publishing/Word Processing:** Adobe InDesign, Adobe PageMaker, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, Adobe Acrobat, Fontographer
- **Database/Spreadsheet:** SQL Server, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, BS&A Equalizer
- **Raster Imagery:** Adobe Photoshop, IrfanView, OCR, large-format scanning and processing
- **Presentation:** Microsoft PowerPoint, familiarity with Adobe Flash
- **Network/Internet:** Adobe Dreamweaver, Microsoft FrontPage, Firefox, Safari, Internet Explorer, TCP/IP, FTP, HTML, CSS, Java (some), JavaScript (some), Microsoft Outlook

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

- NAICS: North American Cartographic Information Society
- MiCAMP: Michigan Communities Association of Mapping Professionals
- IMAGIN: Improving Michigan's Access to Geographic Information Networks

**ACTIVITIES:**

I enjoy pursuing geographic, cartographic and transportation-related interests on a personal level, as well as professionally. I explore cartography, GIS, GPS, and transportation subjects beyond work. I am also interested in outdoors activities including camping, hiking and sightseeing, as well as reading and travel.

Additional career-related information, as well as a sample of my work, is available online at [www.chrisbessert.org](http://www.chrisbessert.org).

**REFERENCES:**

A variety of professional references are available upon request to [chris.bessert@gmail.com](mailto:chris.bessert@gmail.com) or (616) 822-6719.