

## **Dr. Mary Beth Booth, O.D.**

Mary Beth Booth is an Associate Professor of Geography at Austin Community College.

She is also the head of the GIS program, the Assistant Chair of the Social Sciences Department, and the head of the GIS Workforce Advisory Committee. When she arrived at ACC 11 years ago, no GIS courses were being offered. She single-handedly developed ACC's GIS program so that today ACC offers 13 GIS courses, 2 GIS certificates and 2 GIS Associates degrees.

The 2 certificates and the AAS in GIS were first offered in Fall 2009, and in December, the first person received his Level I GIS certificate. Five more students are scheduled to receive certificates in May. Enrollment in the GIS courses now exceeds 150 students every year.

She received her M.A.G degree from Southwest Texas State University, her Doctor of Optometry degree from the New England College of Optometry and her B.S in Biology from Stonehill College. she practiced optometry for 15 years including six years on active duty with the U.S. Army.

She then fell victim to the GIS Kool-Aid and becoming a geographer, and has placed students in most public GIS agencies and some in private practice in the CenTex region.

Here students will tell you she is Excellent Teacher! Someone who has a passion for teaching GIS (and making sure people learn it) - and to also get them out and working in the GIS community.

She loves teaching and has a great sense of humor. She loves geography and will challenge you to do your best, as any good leader will do. She is enthusiastic and dedicated to her students.

Let us thank Mary Beth, for all that she has done in educating individuals and establishing GIS curriculum here in Central Texas!