

# **Advances and Reflections: Efforts to include women in United States surveying and mapping, 1981-2001**

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## **ABSTRACT**

In 1981, a study conducted by the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) and its member organization the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) concluded that women comprised only 1 percent of NSPS. Simultaneously, female surveyors in the United States were faced with trade journal advertisements for surveying equipment that featured women in swimsuits, lace garments, or other inappropriate attire for field surveying. In an effort to recruit women into the surveying profession, and in an effort to improve the professional atmosphere for those women already in the surveying profession, the NSPS Forum for Women in Surveying was created. From 1983 through the present, numerous outreach and retention activities have been conducted by the NSPS Forum for Women in Surveying. In general, those activities have successfully enhanced the diversity of the surveying profession in the United States. A number of successful offshoots of Forum activity have also enhanced professional diversity. From time to time over an eighteen-year period, opposition to the group has resulted in small setbacks that have proven to be relatively minor when compared with the overall professional acceptance of the Forum for Women in Surveying. For the past five years, the Forum for Women in Surveying has also been supportive of the FIG Task Force on Under-Represented Groups in Surveying.

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