

*Geography Department
Marshall University*

Career Bulletin



Jennings Starcher, a native of Ravenswood, West Virginia, is a 2003 (B.A.) and 2005 (M.A.) graduate of the Geography Department of Marshall University. As a student, Mr. Starcher learned to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, a skill that would later land him a career in state government. Mr. Starcher was an active member of the Geography Club from 2001 through 2005, holding every office in the club. His career received a jump start due to his participation in the West Virginia Governor's Internship Program during the summer of 2004. He received graduate credit for the experience and an opportunity to learn real-world skills at the WV Health Care Authority. His internship turned into a full-time job with the agency.

Mr. Starcher is currently employed as a GIS Programmer Analyst for the West Virginia Health Care Authority. The salary range for this position is \$31,000-58,000/year. His primary duties include designing, refining, and maintaining spatial and non-spatial databases and operating a multi-tier healthcare GIS for mapping and analysis. He additionally recommends hardware and software purchases, produces maps and displays, presents his work at conferences, and develops and implements health care provider and facility surveys. He serves as a liaison between his department and other agencies to help identify GIS project needs, obtain data, develop and analyze the project and communicate project results.

For more info about exciting careers in geography check out our website <http://www.marshall.edu/geography>, call (304) 696-4364, or email geograph@marshall.edu.

Below: Mr. Starcher uses Network Analyst, part of the ArcGIS suite of software products by ESRI, Inc., to calculate drive times to West Virginia hospitals as part of his job duties. Shown below is a map generated by Network Analyst showing service areas for a business location (©ESRI, Inc.).

