

Great Basin College Land Surveying/Geomatics Program Graduates



Cory Smith

Cory Smith (Spring 2011) received his Associate of Applied Science Degree from the College of Southern Nevada and transferred to Great Basin College to complete the four year degree in Land Surveying/Geomatics while working in Lincoln County, Nevada. Cory achieved licensure in Nevada shortly after graduation from Great Basin College and is currently working for Newmont Gold Corporation at their Phoenix Mine Property as a Survey Lead Man. It is one of life's ironic circumstances that Cory achieved his education at distance just to move to the Elko Area after graduation. We are happy to have him at the Great Basin Chapter of NALS. I started college at the College of Southern Nevada (then Community College of Southern Nevada) in 2004. My goal was to graduate in 2010. Shortly after starting the Land Surveying program at CSN, I moved to Caliente, NV to work with my grandfather, Lenard Smith, in his Land Surveying business. I had hoped to obtain my professional land surveying license and eventually acquire my grandfather's company in Lincoln County, Nevada. Being able to take advantage of distance learning enabled me to work full time and get my degree at the same time, even though I didn't live in a city with a college. While I was attending CSN, I learned of the Great Basin College Land Surveying/Geomatics Program, which would allow me to receive my bachelor's degree through long distance education. I graduated with my associate degree in 2007 from CSN and entered immediately into the GBC Land Surveying /Geomatics Program. I was able to take 3 classes a semester and continue to work full time utilizing the Internet classes as well as interactive video courses as offered. Even though Great Basin College did not have a campus in town I was able to find locations in the area that allowed me to use their technology to attend class this way. The Interactive Video and Internet courses allowed me to work in the profession concurrently while attending school. I was able to learn the theory and the field practice at the same time which I feel helped me understand more thoroughly the profession as a whole. I graduated from Great Basin College in 2011, passed the Licensure Exams, and achieved licensure in July of 2012. I am currently working for Newmont Mining Corporation as an Engineer Tech Senior and Survey Lead Man. Although it took me longer to graduate than attending full time, the knowledge I gained through CSN and GBC programs have been invaluable in aiding me in my career thus far. I am currently trying to decide where I want my career path to take me, either continuing with mining, or going back into land boundary surveying which I experienced while working with my grandfather as I attended school. I know that the knowledge I gained through these programs will aid me in whichever avenue I choose.