



Autodesk University 2009 Main stage

Autodesk University 2009 “Learn. Connect. Explore.”

By Stefanie Self

The 18th annual Autodesk University (AU) began on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. “Learn. Connect. Explore.” was this year’s theme, which highlighted the benefit to Autodesk users attending the conference in increasing their knowledge and staying competitive in today’s economy. Autodesk’s CEO Carl Bass noted in his keynote address, “One of the best ways to stay competitive is through the use of technology.” More than 25,000 people from 100 countries participated in AU 2009, with over 5,600 attendees in Las Vegas, and more than 17,000 attendees attending on-line via AU Virtual. The conference schedule included approximately 550 classes, 68 labs and 391 speakers and instructors, providing attendees the opportunity to train with the latest tools and techniques.

OSM sponsored 9 attendees from the agency and its partner states. Attending AU is always important to TIPS CAD team members and especially significant due to the release of 2010 software this past year. Attending AU allows the team to keep current with the software and make sure the latest features are incorporated in the 6 TIPS CAD courses and associated material. Without the opportunity to attend these technical lectures and hands on labs, the evolution of Autodesk software could not be reflected within the TIPS Training Program.

Several attendees were first timers this year and were amazed at how much the conference had to offer in training and information. Min Kim, a GIS Specialist from OSM’s Mid-Continent Office was familiar with CAD software but was surprised at how far their GIS components/functionalities had come in recent years: “I was very impressed with CAD’s ability to perform so many GIS functions.” Another plus for him was the fact that the presenters (who are actual users of the software) were focused on the products’ functionalities rather than the marketing aspects.

The conference focused on more than the Autodesk software packages, with course tracks including: Autodesk Subscription; CAD Management and IT; and Education. TIPS Training Coordinator Karyn Evans attended the conference and enjoyed “the opportunity to network with other educators and share information about TIPS training

program processes, as well as gain insight into potentially new areas for the training program.”

During the conference, OSM sponsored attendees met to discuss the week’s events and future activities for the TIPS CAD team. The meeting allowed both State and OSM staff to discuss both CAD achievements and challenges along with ideas for overcoming these challenges and new thoughts for upcoming TIPS training courses.