IoWaDSS Wins National Recognition

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By Melissa Heimbigner

What happens when you bring together a specialized team of scientists and Ph.D. students, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers? Answer: You get a set of advanced web-based tools and recognition at a prestigious national conference on water and wetlands.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Institute for Water Resources funded the Iowa Watershed Decision Support System (IowaDSS) project to assemble data, links, and models in one geographic Working closely with Principal Investigator Marlen Mutske and Brian Duerr, BHIF graduate student Kelsey Xiao and the rest of the team (Heather Hamre and Mary Windom) worked with the USACE to design a system that would not only be easy to access, but also straightforward to update. As system architect, Xiao focused on using web-based tools to promote communication among different stakeholders.

This summer, Xiao traveled to Sacramento, Calif., for the 2016 American Water Resources Association’s (AWRA) Summer Specialty Conference, better known as GIS and Water Resources Week. Xiao went to the conference not only to learn more about what people are doing in hydrology all over the world, but also to present her own work on the IowaDSS project.

At the conference, Xiao was named the winner of the AWRA Student Onsite Presentation Competition. On behalf of the Iowa Flood Center we would like to congratulate her on this honor. Originally from China, Xiao is not only a fluent English speaker, but also communicates advanced concepts and ideas in hydrology. Her presentation was titled “Visualization Platform for Collaborative Modeling.” The Iowa Watershed Decision Support System.

“With this system, I am happy to receive an honorable award,” Xiao says. The team put countless hours of work into a system that over the EPA and other experts from around the country found interesting.

Visit the Iowa Watershed Decision Support System: https://iowawatersheds.hi.earthen_white

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