



1101 14TH STREET, NW
SUITE 350
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Zachary R. Dulli
(202) 857-7695
zach@ncge.org

NEW NCGE BOOK EXPLAINS SPATIAL THINKING AS A FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

Washington D.C. – Throughout their lives, people think spatially in many diverse situations as they comprehend problems and seek solutions. *The People's Guide to Spatial Thinking*, the latest publication from the National Council for Geographic Education, defines spatial thinking for a broad audience, describes how it works, and shows why it should be an important component of every child's education.

Spatial thinking is a form of learning how to learn, a practice that involves an ability to visualize and interpret locations, positions, distances, and movements. The National Science Board has identified spatial thinking skills on par with quantitative and verbal reasoning skills in so far as success in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) innovators can be identified. Spatial thinking is also fundamental to the knowledge, skills, and practices of geographers as they evaluate patterns and processes. The ability to interpret information through maps and graphs is neither intuitive nor automatic, but is an essential component of thinking and learning in the 21st century.

In this brief and accessible book, Diana Sinton and her fellow co-authors illustrate how spatial concepts help us think across the geographies of our life spaces, physical and social spaces, and intellectual space. *The People's Guide to Spatial Thinking* draws from a growing body of knowledge from the National Research Council and independent scholars and educators in the field.

Advance praise includes:

"Diana Stuart Sinton and her co-authors have assembled a remarkable book, a very valuable contribution to a growing awareness of the importance of spatial thinking." **Michael F. Goodchild**, Emeritus Professor of Geography, UC Santa Barbara

"This book really helps demonstrate why spatial thinking needs to be a disruptive innovation for education. We simply are not speaking the right language for many students." **Eric Cromwell**, Coordinator of Elementary Science, Baltimore County Public Schools.

For additional information or to purchase *The People's Guide to Spatial Thinking*, visit the NCGE online store (www.ncge.org).

The People's Guide to Spatial Thinking

By Diana Stuart Sinton with Sarah Bednarz, Phil Gersmehl, Robert Kolvoord, and David Uttal

Price: \$19.95 (\$14.95 for NCGE Members)

ISBN #: 978-1-884136-21-4

About The National Council for Geographic Education: The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) is a non-profit organization, chartered in 1915 to enhance the status and quality of geography teaching and learning. NCGE supports geography teaching at all levels—from Kindergarten through University. Our members include U.S. and International teachers, professors, students, businesses, and others who support geographic education. Visit www.ncge.org to learn more.

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