



## University Consortium for GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE

### Geo-Related Ethics in the News

July 8, 2020

Like many in the Geographic Information Science community, the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) is concerned with [media reports](#) of the apparent dismissal of a GIS Professional employed by the Florida Department of Health after she refused to alter publicly available COVID-19 geospatial data for what are perceived to be political purposes. Our concern is magnified given what we view as continuing threats to scientific integrity germane to Geographic Information Science, for example in a [recent initiative at the EPA](#). Ethical conduct is embodied in the [UCGIS mission](#) to “Advocate policies for the promotion of the ethical use of and access to geographic information and technologies...” and in the GIS Certification Institute’s ([GISCI](#)) [Code of Ethics](#), which includes the obligation to “Provide full, clear, and accurate information.” UCGIS will continue our longstanding activities to promote ethics in Geographic Information Science through education and research. More information on the importance of ethics as it relates to science and the profession can be found in the UCGIS [GIS&T Body of Knowledge](#) sections on [Professional and Practical Ethics](#) and [GIS and Critical Ethics](#).