

# Reflections on Attending the 2nd FIG Young Surveyors Americas Regional Meeting

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the FIG Foundation for granting me the scholarship that allowed me to participate in the 2nd FIG Young Surveyors Americas Regional Meeting, which took place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on October 17–18 of this year (2025). Attending this event was an incredibly enriching and transformative experience, both professionally and personally. It strengthened my commitment to the development of the geospatial world and to the Young Surveyors community in the Americas region.



From the very beginning, it was clear that the atmosphere was shaped by collaboration, exchange, and enthusiasm for building a stronger network of young leaders in the geospatial field. From FIG Foundation, FIG YSN, and NSPS, you could see how they were always making sure everyone felt comfortable, checking if anyone needed anything, and offering their support both in the moment and for the future.

On the first day, we began in the afternoon, and the opening was led by the President of the NSPS Young Surveyors Network, followed by an inspiring message from Marcus Schmitt of the FIG Young Surveyors Network, who is also in charge of the FIG YSN Americas Network. What stood out to me about Marcus is that he always encouraged everyone to see themselves as future leaders of our profession in the Americas.

One of the most significant moments, I feel, was the talk by Bryn Fosburgh (President of the FIG Foundation) on leadership and the importance of “soft skills.” His reflections on communication, mentorship, and collaborative work were incredibly valuable, and I feel they set the tone for the rest of the event, both highly professional and deeply inspiring.



On the second day, multiple sessions, workshops, and discussion spaces were held, all of which expanded my knowledge of both GIS and the surveying world and provided me with tools applicable to my professional development. One of the things I enjoyed most was being able to meet and listen closely to the work experiences of different young colleagues, what specialties or areas they work in, how their days look before, during, and after work, and how they deal with or respond to problems, obstacles, etc. I feel these are topics people don't usually talk about with others outside their immediate professional environment, and I found it incredibly enriching.

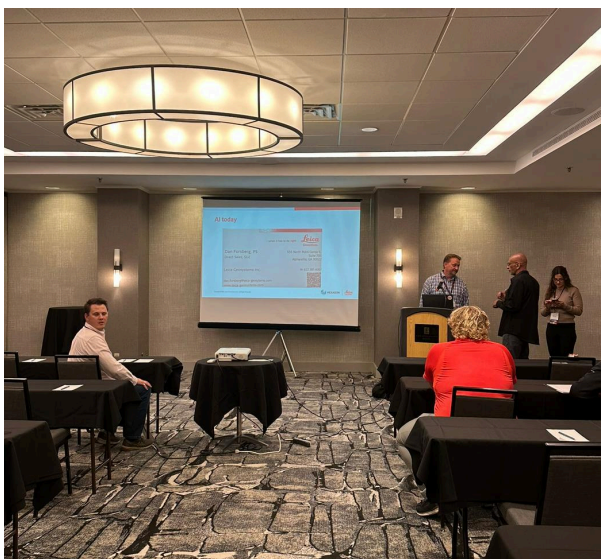
In the conflict-resolution workshop, we carried out a practical exercise analyzing real workplace situations, where a clear step-by-step method was presented to address disagreements effectively. Later, I had the great opportunity to be part of the panel "Career pathways for young surveyors," moderated by Timothy Burch, where together with other colleagues (Milad Sadegi, Stacey Pollock, and Nolan Mark), we were able to share our

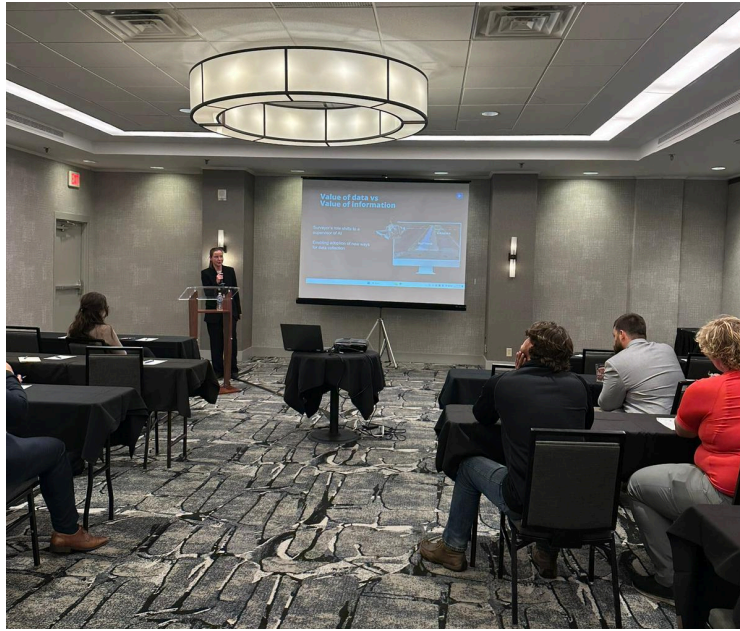


personal experiences regarding our profession, work environments, and mentorships—highlighting the positives, what brought us to where we are, as well as the disadvantages and challenges.



As the day continued, there was a presentation on personal branding and social media, where we were shown tools on how to build an authentic and effective presence on platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook, YouTube, and others. Following this presentation, there were three sessions led by major companies: Leica Geosystems, Esri, and Trimble, who presented real applications of artificial intelligence in geospatial workflows. These sessions were enriching, as they demonstrated through real cases how closely aligned our profession is with AI.





The final talk was on leadership and organizational culture, highlighting the importance of transparent communication and building effective teams; fundamental concepts for any young professional.



To conclude the day, a brief scholarship award ceremony by the FIG Foundation was held, and for me personally, it was a moment of great pride and motivation. Being selected to take part in this major event surrounded by outstanding and successful young professionals as well as accomplished participants from leading companies represents a significant professional recognition and also a responsibility toward the geospatial community of Latin America.





In addition to the academic activities, the social spaces, such as the gathering at the Mall of America and the closing event with WhirlyBall, were perfect opportunities to get to know other young professionals more deeply, strengthen bonds, exchange ideas, and appreciate the diversity of our region.





Lastly, I would like to again thank the FIG Foundation for the scholarship that made my participation in this event possible; the FIG Young Surveyors Network Americas Region for being such a strong support during the months of pre-event nerves; and the NSPS Young Surveyors Network for the impeccable organization and for creating an incredible learning environment. I really appreciated that all of us young professionals were able to share our experiences, motivations, and also free time and leisure moments during those days.



Thanks to this scholarship, I take with me new knowledge, valuable professional contacts, and a strong motivation to continue contributing to the growth of our profession in the region, and especially in my country.

Participating in the 2nd FIG Young Surveyors Americas Regional Meeting not only strengthened my technical and leadership skills, but also reaffirmed my commitment to the mission of *Empowering Tomorrow's Surveyors*. I returned home with a broader vision, new tools, and the conviction that international collaboration is essential for the future of geomatics.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity and hope to continue representing the Young Surveyors community with dedication and responsibility.