



Fellow CFedS

My congratulations on your achievement in becoming a Certified Federal Surveyor.

You have committed a great deal of time--- and a disciplined effort to succeed in this endeavor

You are at the leading edge of a new frontier, a new class of land surveyors, a new generation of land surveyors.

With this federal authority license comes a responsibility that should **not be taken lightly.**

You now possess the knowledge and skill to perform cadastral services conforming to federal standards. You are now obligated to perform these services, in the manner expected of you by:

- The Secretary of the Interior,
- By the Cadastral Chiefs; especially Mr. Buhler, here with us tonight.
- By the Bureau of Land Management,
- By the Bureau of Indian Affairs,
- By the Office of the Special Trustee; especially Mr. Swimmer, here with us tonight.
- By ACSM and Mr. Sumner here with us tonight-now playing a partnership role.
- By the BILS surveyors
- By the Certification Panel
- By all of those who trained you
- Especially the trainers here with you tonight: Mr. Scherler, Mr. Green, and Mr. French.

And, of course, by your fellow CFedS.

Speaking of the trainers, it is no small feat in what they have accomplished---CFedS would you join me in a round of applause to recognize the trainers for all the work they have done to get this program off the ground.

And then there is Ron: I only learned this afternoon that Ron has fulfilled his assignment for getting the CFedS program off the ground. Now this had to have been a tall order to fill. I know that the past 3 years must have been filled with frustration and some doubt.

However, Mr. Scherler, please know that I am speaking for all CFedS when I say:

- You have touched our lives
- You have literally changed our lives and professional careers for the better.
- We are better educated, we have more confidence, and because we are, the surveying community just took a giant leap in the right direction.

We the CFedS appreciate very much your compassion, diligence, and fortitude to see this program through...thank you very much.

CFedS, let me give you a quick sneak peek of **your** future based on my own experience as a CFedS.

So far I have had two phone calls from two different Indian agencies in North Dakota acknowledging that I am a CFedS and asking for a bid on their projects. Also being a CFedS has definitely impacted my career in other ways this past year, and this is how. Two federal agencies sent out solicitation notices in my state for cadastral survey services. One was the Forest Service, and the other was NRCS.

In the case of the Forest Service 2 of the 3 firms selected for contracts were CFedS firms, I know because I was one of them. In the case of NRCS, all 3 of the firms selected were CedS firms, I know because I was one of them.

Given the fact there are only 4 resident CFedS firms in my state I think this speaks **volumes** for having CFedS credentials. And I believe these types of things will happen to you as well.

Also there is this camaraderie thing going on like I never experienced before. At our annual surveyors conference in North Dakota there was a CFedS breakfast that was well attended by the BILS surveyor, 4 CFedS and I think 7 other individuals in the training program. It was a great get together and I would encourage all of you to do the same in your state.

Then in Minnesota a CFedS put out a call for help to other CFedS in the area asking for advice on how to breakdown this particular fractional section he was working on. I know a few CFedS responded besides myself, so it's just another example of what you might expect and what you can do in the same types of situations.

You have taken the steps necessary to enhance your knowledge and expertise at considerable expense. You have gone through the testing and have earned the trust of everyone involved in this program, -----
---- from the Secretary of the Interior, all the way down through the trainers and fellow CFedS that are here with you tonight

You are a living component of the Fiduciary Trust Model, and whose trust responsibility you must now **pay forward** in your professional duties.

You have received your certificate tonight which gives you the distinction of being called a Certified Federal Surveyor. CFedS you should be very proud of your accomplishment. You have gained the respect of your family, your peers, and all those involved in the CFedS program.

Therefore Secretary Kempthorne, Mr. Buhler, Mr. Swimmer, and all Indian tribes: we the Certified Federal Surveyors of the United States of America, stand ready and willing, as we have been trained, to measure, restore, divide, and describe.

Thank you.
Steve Ackerman