Salisbury University’s reach is going beyond the Eastern seaboard and extending into the Midwest. In addition to providing services and expertise to the mid-Atlantic region, SU faculty and students now may include Oklahoma in their project portfolio.

Looking at workforce trends in any particular region is something leaders from the public and private sectors do on a regular basis. The challenge with this task is how to share the information with stakeholders in a way that gives all invested parties a clear and concise understanding of what the numbers mean and how to plan for the future. Dashboards are a visual and dynamic tool that can be used to tell a story behind a “bunch” of numbers.

When Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin witnessed a presentation made by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation with dashboards developed by GeoDASH showcasing workforce trends throughout the state, it was an “ah-ha” moment. She knew she wanted the opportunity to share Oklahoma’s workforce data in the same fashion and with a tool that can manipulate the data as milestones are reached and the job market grows.

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce hired GeoDASH—a joint initiative of SU’s Business, Economic and Community Outreach Network (BEACON) and the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC)—to develop, design and launch an Oklahoma Workforce Development Dashboard to use as an interactive tool that will help them tell the story about the current and projected future of workforce development across the state.

The team has been tasked with collecting workforce statistics, summary geographies and base maps. Workforce statistics include details related to job openings, job seekers and training opportunities in Oklahoma. The GeoDASH team evaluates all data sources that will be incorporated into the dashboard to determine the level of data preparation and manipulation necessary for the project. Each workforce statistic will be featured individually on a separate tab (i.e. Work, Workforce and Training) as well as combined into appropriate comparisons in an additional Compare tab.

Oklahoma Department of Commerce will have the capability of pulling individual charts from the main dashboard to embed into other Web pages. The functionality will be based on the custom dashboard technology found on the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation’s Workforce Dashboard for Maryland (www.dllr.state.md.us/workforcedashboard).

The dashboard also will be equipped with functionality to operate on all mobile platforms.
Got Green Data?

By Wayne Shelton, Director of Campus Sustainability and Environmental Safety

For the fifth consecutive year, The Princeton Review, in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council named Salisbury University one of the nation’s most environmentally responsible colleges in its Guide to 332 Green Colleges. As we strive to maintain and improve upon our green campus, a lot of information is constantly being collected and reviewed. If your research interests include sustainability topics, you will be pleased to learn there is a wide range of data available. In some cases, data has been collected for more than a decade!

One example of this is building energy consumption data, which, in most cases, is available for each building and has been collected monthly since the 1990s. That data is further broken down by energy type – electricity, natural gas and fuel oil. Another data resource is recycling and composting data, which has been collected since 2000. Recycled materials are separated into those under the Materials Recycling Act (MRA) and non-MRA and reported in tons. Composting includes landscaping materials and, recently, food waste, which has been diverted from the landfill. Another data type is campus carbon footprint data from 2005 to the present. If your interest is in geothermal HVAC, there is data from three residence halls that have exactly the same footprint, use and occupancy type but with different HVAC systems – traditional and geothermal.

If you are interested in using this data or have questions regarding data that may not be listed, please contact me and we’ll work together to find the information you need.