Cathie Benjamin
Instructional Support Tech II, occasional geography lecturer
CSU Chico

As the geography department’s computer lab manager, I will serve as staff liaison for the advisory board. I would happily answer any technical questions from the board members, plus I hope that my connection to students may also serve useful.


Professional trajectory and interests: After an early and varied work history ranging from tomato field worker to legal secretary to computer network administrator, I returned to college later in life when my two daughters also were at universities. I crafted an undergraduate degree that combined all my skills and called it Biogeospatial Analysis, wrapping together a GIS certificate, topics in the natural sciences, digital photography, computer programming, and graphic design. I was lucky to land a job in the GIS computer lab at Chico State and have enjoyed my work here for over ten years now, even completing a masters degree in 2012. My
most consuming interests today are online mapping using javascript, Flash, Flex, and HTML5 programming. I successfully write small academic grants that help me explore these interests, and the geography department supports my teaching of these new technologies to our students in small classes offered in the fall semester. These skills also help me outside academia in my second job, where I assist a local natural resource firm as their GIS manager, grant writer, and computer guru. For me, life continues to get better each day.

**Interests, hobbies, travels:** I am married to fellow board member Randy Cousineau, and we enjoy being outdoors through gardening, backpacking, and kayaking in our North State and in Puget Sound. I also enjoy all kinds of handcrafted arts and, of course, all things “computer.”