The Anderson Medal is the highest honor which the Applied Geography Specialty Group (AGSG), Association of American Geographers (AAG), can bestow. It is awarded by the AGSG Board of Directors, upon recommendation by the Anderson Medal Committee, in recognition of the most distinguished service to the profession of geography.

The AGSG may bestow a Medal for achievement in geography on individuals or organizations for notable contributions to the advancement of the profession by recognizing outstanding accomplishments in one or more areas of industry, government, literature, education, research, service to the profession, or public service. A Medal is so distinctive an honor that it is bestowed only if the accomplishments are truly outstanding.

As the 2010 Anderson Medalist, Michael N. DeMers is recognized for exceptional accomplishments in applied geography education, research, and service to the profession and the wider public.

He received his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in 1985, and has held academic positions at Mankato State University, North Texas State University, The Ohio State University, and New Mexico State University. As an educator, Dr. DeMers had an early impact on GIS with publication of his Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems in 1997. Translated into both Russian and Chinese, this textbook has been a mainstay in GIS coursework worldwide. DeMers also authored GIS Modeling in Raster, the only textbook focusing on this critical aspect of GIS. With David DiBiase and others, he edited the GIS&T Body of Knowledge, which has been adopted by many national organizations as the "gold" standard for GIS certification. His GIS for Dummies book has educated the public at large about the role geography can play in solving spatial problems.

DeMers' research has focused on land use modeling, classification, and evaluation. His early work on the LESA model is the single largest collection of GIS research on that USDA model. Many of his approaches underlie the development of standalone commercial LESA software and ArcView modules, all designed to preserve the best of the nation’s agricultural lands. More recently, he has focused on the evaluation of arid lands. DeMers has also been a trailblazer in research using multi-user virtual environments for online course delivery.

In a professional capacity, he has been a major participant in the U.S. International Society for Landscape Ecology, and the AAG's Biogeography, Applied Geography, and Geography Education Societies.
Specialty Groups. In these latter two roles, and as Vice Chair for External Relations of NCGE, he has been linking their efforts to encourage applied geography educational discourse. Internationally, DeMers has held workshops in the Middle East and Latin America to assist GIS educators in developing countries. He has served as a reviewer of many proposals, books, articles, and programs for NSF, NOAA, NGA, and a wide variety of journals.

Finally, Dr. DeMers has served the public in several ways, including as an expert witness for projects involving water rights and off-road vehicle impacts, and by creating a competency-based GIS certification program for county employees. And, his service-learning class projects have assisted a broad range of public organizations. By applying his expertise to the betterment of the wider community, he is an exemplary role model for his students.

The Anderson Medal Committee and the Applied Geography Specialty Group extend warm congratulations to Dr. Michael N. DeMers on being awarded the 2010 Anderson Medal of Honor in Applied Geography.