



Statement on President Obama's Address on Restoring America's Leadership in Higher Education

August 11, 2010

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and Educational Testing Service (ETS) applaud President Obama's call for the United States to again lead the world in the proportion of college graduates by 2020. A highly-educated citizenry is essential to maintaining our national prosperity and global competitiveness.

Substantial growth in the number of college graduates will greatly increase the number of Americans on a potential pathway to graduate school, where our future scientists, college faculty, and experts in a wide range of fields are trained.

The White House has noted that half of the fastest growing occupations require at least a bachelor's degree. Many of these occupations will require education beyond the baccalaureate. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that between 2008-2018 about 2.5 million jobs will require an advanced degree, with projections that the number of jobs requiring a master's degree will grow by 18%, and those requiring a doctorate will increase 17%.

In April, the Commission on the Future of Graduate Education, a joint effort between CGS and ETS, issued a landmark report that addresses this projected demand for a highly-skilled workforce. [*The Path Forward: The Future of Graduate Education in the United States*](#) confirms the centrality of a graduate-level workforce to maintaining U.S. competitiveness and innovation, but warns that the country must adopt a national strategy to broaden participation in graduate education or risk losing its position as the world leader in cutting-edge research and innovation.

The report echoes President Obama's recognition of the importance of increasing educational attainment, noting that the foundation of revitalizing our innovation system is developing the U.S. domestic talent pool by increasing investments in higher education, particularly graduate education.

Similarly, *The Path Forward* report and the President both note that addressing this challenge will take concerted efforts from many stakeholders. The report's recommendations call for developing partnerships and collaborations between federal policymakers, universities, and employers.

The Council of Graduate Schools and ETS stand ready to engage in this effort to help our nation restore its leadership in higher education and meet the challenges of the 21st century. Our shared economic growth depends upon creating pathways to college and to graduate school.

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. Among U.S. institutions, CGS members award 95% of the doctoral degrees and 78% of the master's degrees. The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.

At nonprofit ETS, we advance quality and equity in education for people worldwide by creating assessments based on rigorous research. ETS serves individuals, educational institutions and government agencies by providing customized solutions for teacher certification, English-language learning, and elementary, secondary and post-secondary education, as well as conducting education research, analysis and policy studies. Founded in 1947, ETS develops, administers and scores more than 50 million tests annually — including the GRE®, TOEFL® and TOEIC® tests and The Praxis Series™ assessments — in more than 180 countries, at over 9,000 locations worldwide.