



Council of Graduate Schools

Statement on the Administration's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

February 4, 2010

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) commends President Obama for releasing a Fiscal Year 2011 budget request that recognizes the importance of graduate education and the central role it plays in supporting U.S. innovation and competitiveness. The budget proposes funding increases for a number of programs that support graduate education and research, which are critical to maintaining America's global leadership in the knowledge-based economy of the 21st century.

The priorities outlined in the FY 2011 budget also recognize that support for graduate education is essential to the development of a highly-trained workforce. Our nation's graduate schools will produce the next generation of creative, innovative researchers and experts in a wide spectrum of fields as well as the future faculty for our nation's colleges and universities.

As the budget proposes a freeze for most discretionary spending, CGS especially appreciates the following key provisions that support graduate education and research:

- A 16% increase over FY10 for the Graduate Research Fellowship program at the National Science Foundation (NSF), as part of a plan to triple the number of new awards made each year by 2013.
- Funding for the RE-ENERGYSE program, a new partnership between the Department of Energy and NSF that will include graduate fellowships for both master's and doctoral students in clean energy fields.
- A 5% increase for the National Institutes of Health's National Research Service Award program to support pre- and post-doctoral researchers.
- A 5% increase for the Department of Education's Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions program.

The Administration has identified several grand challenges facing the country in energy independence, climate change, health care, and other areas. We will need more Americans with the advanced and flexible skills developed in graduate education both to respond to these challenges and to remain globally competitive.

The connection between graduate education and competitiveness and innovation is currently being examined by the Commission on the Future of Graduate Education formed by CGS and Educational Testing Service. Comprised of industry and academic leaders, the Commission's report and recommendations will be released on April 29.

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.

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