Political Engagement

Karen P. DePauw, Ph.D.
Vice President & Dean for Graduate Education, Virginia Tech

CGS New Deans Institute 2010
Agenda

- Importance of Political Engagement
  Internally and Externally

- Showcasing the Contributions of Graduate Education at National, State and Local Levels – Lessons Learned

- Overview of CGS Government Relations Resources

- Breakout sessions - case study discussion

- Wrap up and closing
Why be politically engaged?

- Awareness of …
- Advocacy for …
- Knowledge and understanding of …
- Communication about …
- Giving voice to …

...value and importance of graduate education...
A few reflections

- Messages and approaches vary depending upon audience and purpose
- “Talking points” are critical
- Ongoing process – long term strategy
- Short term objectives
- Engagement is a “part of the job”
- Utilize available publications - *The Path Forward*
The Path Forward
The Future of Graduate Education in the United States

Materials available at:
www.fgereport.org

Talking points
Data & charts
Recommendations
Document to share
Example from Virginia

- Virginia Council of Graduate Schools (VCGS)
  - Shared goals
  - Common strategies
  - Different contributions

- State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV)

- Legislature and government connections

- Graduate Student Research Forum
http://www.vacgs.net/
VCGS Graduate Student Research Forum

- Purpose
- Audiences/invitees
- Research & scholarship foci
- Location & timing
- Annual event
Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum

Hosted by the Virginia Council of Graduate Schools

February 10, 2009
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The Library of Virginia
February 10, 2009

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum sponsored by the Virginia Council of Graduate Schools (VCGS). Congratulations to the students presenting their research during the forum.

Graduate education is an essential component of the research agenda for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commonwealth relies heavily on the work and scholarship of our graduate students. They work closely with faculty to create new understandings and discoveries which are applied to the social and economic challenges facing society. They also contribute to the learning and engagement missions of our colleges and universities as they prepare for careers as scientists, teachers, leaders, artists, and professionals.

Higher education is one of the primary economic development drivers in the state. Last year, I signed a $1.5 billion bond package, which included $1.1 billion for our colleges and universities. These funds support research by providing modern facilities and equipment and represent the largest capital investment in higher education in the history of the Commonwealth.

I applaud the work of the Virginia Council of Graduate Schools to coordinate the forum and continue advocating for graduate education in the Commonwealth.

Investing in graduate education is investing in Virginia!

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kaine