

Political Engagement

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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*



Talking points
Data & charts
Recommendations
Document to share

The Path Forward

The Future of Graduate Education in the United States

Materials available at:
www.fgereport.org

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



Virginia Council of Graduate Schools

investing in graduate education is investing in Virginia!

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<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



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

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



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Thomas R. Morris
Secretary of Education

January 20, 2009

Welcome to the Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum! I am delighted the Virginia Council of Graduate Schools (VCGS) coordinated this event to provide a glimpse into the world of graduate research, and a better understanding of the impact graduate students have on the growth and sustainability of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Graduate students enrolled at Virginia's colleges and universities come from every state and more than 60 nations throughout the world. They provide valuable contributions to the teaching, research, and service missions of our institutions of higher education. Collectively, our universities contribute greatly to the advancement of knowledge, through graduate education, at the master's and doctoral levels.

Upon completion of their studies, graduate students become members of the skilled workforce addressing significant economic and social challenges, including health care, the environment, transportation, teaching, and homeland security. Beyond addressing the problems of tomorrow, our graduate students are a premier example of what continues to make Virginia a wonderful place to live and work.

Thank you for attending the forum. I hope you enjoy interacting with the outstanding graduate students from our public colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth. They represent today's research and scholarship and tomorrow's future.

Investing in graduate education is investing in Virginia!

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Morris
Secretary of Education
Commonwealth of Virginia

Letters from Governor and other Political leaders