MEDIA ALERT

Interdisciplinary Learning in Graduate Education and Research

The Eighth Annual Strategic Leaders Global Summit on Graduate Education
Co-hosted by the Council of Graduate Schools and Memorial University Newfoundland

14 countries to be represented

September 7 – September 10, 2014
Newfoundland, Canada

Overview
From September 7 to September 10, 2014, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) will convene the eighth annual Strategic Leaders Global Summit on Graduate Education. The summit will address pressing questions about preparing the next generation of research professionals to learn and collaborate beyond the bounds of one discipline:

- What are the advantages of mixing academic cultures and methods among STEM, Humanities, and Social Sciences? How can degree programs be designed, administered, and evaluated for student success?
- How can institutions overcome barriers such as a lack of funding or administrative support, and the difficulties of publishing research across disciplines?
- How can graduate schools build and sustain partnerships with public, private, and non-profit funders to create interdisciplinary research and learning opportunities for students?

Event Details
The event will take place at the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland, in St. John's, and at Fishers' Loft in Port Rexton, Newfoundland. The session open to media guests will be from 11:00 a.m. to noon Wednesday, September 10, at the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland. This year's summit will assemble 31 leaders in graduate education who represent a diverse range of national graduate education systems. Presentations will be made by speakers from 14 countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China (PRC and Hong Kong), Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Attached is a list of participant names, institutions, and countries.
**Topic**
An international steering committee conferred on the 2014 summit theme, “Interdisciplinary Learning in Graduate Education and Research.” In choosing this theme, the steering committee recognizes that complex questions in our global society cannot be answered using single methods or approaches. Master’s and doctoral students will be called upon to approach these questions, and summit participants will consider how best to train students to meet these challenges.

Summit panellists were asked to explore interdisciplinarity in master’s and doctoral education with regard to their own local contexts. The presentations to be shared at the event discuss how interdisciplinary learning and research might be integrated into graduate programs in order to train tomorrow’s global leaders.

**Outcomes and Press Release**
CGS and MUN will share the summit outcomes and resulting consensus statement at a media forum on **September 10 at 11:00 a.m., Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland, in St. John’s**, which will be attended by CGS President Suzanne Ortega and Dean of the MUN School of Graduate Studies and incoming Provost and Vice President (Academic) pro tempore, Noreen Golfman, and other summit speakers as available.

Journalists are invited to conduct interviews with the leaders of the sponsoring institutions. Arrangements may also be made to interview summit leaders from specific countries. Speakers will be available to discuss the consensus statement and answer questions about topics relevant to their countries and institutions.

**Background**
The Strategic Leaders Global Summit is the only annual international forum for leaders in graduate education. Past summits have explored topics including program quality, dual-degree programs, graduate career outcomes, and the global mobility of graduate talent.

**Press Contacts**
If you wish to attend the press conference or conduct interviews with summit leaders prior to the event, please contact:

Maureen McCarthy, CGS: (202) 223-3791 / mmccarthy@cgs.nche.edu
Meaghan Whelan, MUN: (709) 864-2455 / mcwhelan@mun.ca
PARTICIPANTS

Professor Vahan Agopyan, University of São Paulo, Brazil
Dr. Marie Audette, Université Laval, Canada
Dr. Robert Augustine, Eastern Illinois University, United States
Dr. Sue Berners-Price, Griffith University, Australia
Professor Verena Blechinger-Talcott, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Professor Hans-Joachim Bungartz, Technische Universität München, Germany
Dr. Chen Shiyi, Peking University, China
Professor Denise Cuthbert, RMIT University, Australia
Dr. John (Jay) Doering, University of Manitoba, Canada
Dr. Noreen Golfman, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada
Professor Roger Horn, Deakin University, Australia
Professor Lucy Johnston, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
Dr. Mohan Kankanhalli, National University of Singapore, Singapore
Dr. Barbara Knuth, Cornell University, United States
Dr. Melita Kovacevic, University of Zagreb, Croatia
Dr. Nancy Marcus, Florida State University, United States
Dr. Liviu Matei, Central European University, Hungary
Dr. Maureen McCarthy, Council of Graduate Schools, United States
Dr. Shireen Motala, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
Dr. Suzanne Ortega, Council of Graduate Schools, United States
Professor Laura Poole-Warren, University of New South Wales, Australia
Dr. Nirmala Rao, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (China)
Mr. Rafael Sidi, Senior Vice President, ProQuest
Dr. Mark J.T. Smith, Purdue University, United States
Professor Zaidatun Tasir, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia
Dr. Tao Tao, Xiamen University, China
Dr. Stefanie Thorne, University Campus Suffolk, United Kingdom
Dr. Jiaping Wang, Zhejiang University, China
Dr. Lesley Wilson, European University Association, Belgium
Dr. James C. Wimbush, Indiana University, United States
Dr. Lisa Young, University of Calgary, Canada