



CGS Member Statements on the Expanding Access to Graduate Education Act

"Increasing access to graduate education is at a critical juncture," said **Dr. Jon Kull, Dean of the Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies Dartmouth**. "As we seek to diversify our graduate population, we are often met with questions from low-income and underrepresented groups regarding the affordability of graduate studies. The proposed legislation will help individuals from low-income and underrepresented groups continue their education by accessing funds not exhausted in their undergraduate years. Providing an extension for these funds which are already allocated would send a clear message of our national commitment to maintaining and growing our highly educated workforce in the global arena."

"The Pell Grant provides considerable financial support to our student body, particularly those with limited family financial resources," said **Dr. Cari Moorhead, Dean of the Graduate School, University of New Hampshire**. "At the University of New Hampshire over 1,000 of our undergraduate students graduated with Pell eligibility remaining. Of those students, 112 have returned for graduate study. Extending Pell eligibility to graduate students would be enormously significant for those students who could be using Pell rather than taking on additional student debt. In addition, if Pell eligibility were to be extended we would likely see additional enrollments in graduate school enhancing the students and in turn our communities."

"I am pleased to see Congressman Upton has again co-sponsored the *Expanding Access to Graduate Education Act*, as this legislation will put a graduate degree within reach of students who could not even imagine obtaining an advanced degree without financial assistance," said **Dr. Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Dean of the Graduate College, Western Michigan University**. "This Bill will truly expand access to an advanced degree for income-eligible students, supporting the Western Michigan University mission of providing access for all to learn and will build more inclusive professions and stronger communities."

"A well-trained workforce is essential for economic growth, and employers are demonstrating increased need for workers with graduate degrees," said **Dr. Dixie Thompson, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School University of Tennessee, Knoxville**. "The *Expanding Access to Graduate Education Act* would provide increased access to graduate education for Americans wishing to pursue advanced degrees. If passed, this Act would advance our commitment to workforce development and to greater access to graduate education regardless of a person's socioeconomic status."