



**Leading for the Future:  
New Opportunities,  
New Challenges, New Strategies**

**ST. LOUIS, MO**

DECEMBER 4-7, 2024 **CGS** COUNCIL OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS



# CGS 64<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

**8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**     **REGISTRATION**     **LANDMARK FOYER**

**8:30 AM - 12:00 PM**     **CGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**     **HAWTHORNE/LUCAS**  
*Michael Cunningham, Chair, Board of Directors, Council of Graduate Schools and Associate Provost, Graduate Studies and Research, Tulane University*

**8:30 AM - 9:00 AM**     **MORNING COFFEE**  
**SPONSORED BY:**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER UTHealth HOUSTON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

**9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**     **PRE-MEETING WORKSHOPS (PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED)**

**SUSTAINING GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS AND RESILIENCE**     **LANDMARK 1**

Facilitators will use videos and written case studies to engage participants in group discussions about how to better communicate, set explicit expectations, resolve conflicts, and use the interest-based approach when mentoring students. They will explore the importance of context and examine scenarios from the perspectives of administrators, professors, and students. Participants will also be guided on how to use numerous mentoring resources to enhance graduate education success on their campuses and academic units.

*Speakers: Henry (Rique) Campa III, Senior Associate Dean, Graduate School, Michigan State University  
Emily Greeson, AAAS Science Policy Fellow, National Science Foundation  
Kirsten Tollefson, Associate Dean, Graduate School, Michigan State University*

**REVIEW OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS: MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL**     **LANDMARK 3**

Assessing the quality of master's and doctoral programs is essential for effective decision making and optimal impact. The presenters will provide strategies for meaningful and manageable program review. Participants will discuss review processes using program outcomes for impact, and directions needed for innovation, and change. Presenters will conclude with perspectives on how to include data and how to incorporate feedback from external reviewers and accreditation requirements into program reviews.

*Speakers: Will Cantrell, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate School, Michigan Technological University*

*David Daleke, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Health Sciences and Dean, Graduate School, Indiana University Bloomington*

*Sarah Larsen, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School, University of Houston*

**BEST PRACTICES AND STRATEGIES FOR INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT AND STUDENT SUPPORT** **LANDMARK 5**

Shifting demographics and geopolitical factors present new questions and challenges for international graduate enrollment. What recruitment resources are available to assist graduate education leaders in making informed decisions and aid efforts to internationalize their campuses? What financial support and other means of support services are available on campuses and beyond? This workshop will provide a forum for discussing best practices and strategies for international student recruitment and retention.

*Speakers: Brenton DeBoef, Dean, Graduate School, University of Rhode Island  
Vijay Ramani, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and International Affairs, Washington University in St. Louis*

**PREPARING FOR UNCERTAINTY: STRATEGIC PLANNING IN AN ERA OF CHANGE** **LANDMARK 2**

Flexibility to meet emerging challenges and opportunities in an ever-changing higher education environment has led many universities to move from five-year strategic plans to shorter, more nimble plans. This session will call on the expertise of deans who have been involved in strategic planning at their universities, addressing elements such as university mission, place-based and online strategies, unique programs, and market niches.

*Speakers: Claudia Petrescu, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Graduate School, Kansas State University  
Can (John) Saygin, Dean, Graduate College and Senior Vice President for Research, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
Linda Thomas, Dean, The Graduate School, James Madison University*

**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

**2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**PRE-MEETING WORKSHOPS (PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED)**

**COST OF GRADUATE EDUCATION** **LANDMARK 2**

Promoting accessible, equitable, and high-quality graduate education is a fundamental commitment of CGS and its member institutions. The CGS Cost of Graduate Education Taskforce spent months examining issues such as, cost of attendance, time to degree completion, the ROI, and the need for institutions to be transparent about the cost of graduate education. Learn more about the Cost of Graduate Education Toolkit.

*Speakers: Lisa Armistead, Dean, Graduate School, Georgia State University  
William Karpus, Dean, Graduate School, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Brandy Randall, Dean, Graduate School, Oakland University*

**DEVELOPING CAMPUS-WIDE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT DEI IN GRADUATE EDUCATION** **LANDMARK 3**

Graduate education is often decentralized, making it difficult to develop coordinated approaches to diversity, equity and inclusion across all graduate programs. In this session, learn from experienced deans about developing institution-wide strategies in the following areas: recruitment, holistic admissions processes, transparent policies and program expectations, and graduate student mentoring.

*Speakers: Ruth Bahr, Dean, Office of Graduate Studies, University of South Florida  
Chevelle Newsome, Dean, Graduate Studies, California State University, Sacramento  
Suresh Subramanian, Vice Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs, George Washington University*

**EMERGING MODELS OF WRITING SUPPORT FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS****LANDMARK 5**

For the past two decades, *Thesis and Dissertation Writing Boot Camps* have proliferated to support graduate students in their degree completion. So, what's new and innovative? Join us to discuss emerging models of writing support that include collaborative writing, centralizing research and writing support, virtual events supporting non-resident students, writing as community building, harnessing artificial intelligence as a tool to improve writing, and deploying badges to recognize completion of writing programs.

*Speakers: Kristina Quynn, Assistant Dean, Graduate School and Director, CSU Writes, Colorado State University*  
*Stephen Roth, Associate Provost and Dean, The Graduate School, University of Maryland, College Park*  
*Kristin Terrill, Graduate Student Services Specialist, Iowa State University*

**FUNDRAISING FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION****LANDMARK 1**

As the need for additional support for graduate education increases, securing external funding from a variety of sources is essential. This workshop will outline fundraising strategies for graduate education with a focus on development fundamentals, building cases for support, and identifying potential donors among alumni, employer, and regional stakeholder networks. Collaborating within the university on fundraising goals and access to resources will also be covered.

*Speakers: Levon Esters, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, J. Jeffrey and Ann Marie Fox Graduate School, Pennsylvania State University*  
*Mary Stromberger, Vice Provost and Dean for Graduate Education, The Ohio State University*  
*Jennifer Theiss, Director, Alumni and External Relations, J. Jeffrey and Ann Marie Fox Graduate School, Pennsylvania State University*

**4:00 PM - 5:00 PM****HSI NETWORKING****LANDMARK 6**

Attention HSI and aspirational-HSI colleagues. Join this networking event and meet with colleagues at other HSI institutions to catch-up, share ideas and initiatives, and discuss common issues and interests.

**4:00 PM - 5:00 PM****HBCU NETWORKING****LANDMARK 7**

Attention HBCU colleagues. Join this networking event and meet with colleagues at other HBCU institutions to catch-up, share ideas and initiatives, and discuss common issues and interests.

**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM****LGBTQ+ NETWORKING****PERSHING/LINDELL**

All LGBTQ+ and allied attendees are encouraged to attend this networking event. In addition to building community and discussing current climate, we hope for sharing of ideas and discussion of repositories to help build greater supports for your LGBTQ+ graduate students.

**5:00 PM - 6:00 PM****NEW MEMBER AND FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE MEET AND GREET****STATLER**

Don't miss this opportunity to meet CGS staff and other first-time attendees. All first-time attendees and new members are encouraged to attend this networking event.

**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM****OPENING RECEPTION****CRYSTAL BALLROOM****THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5****7:00 AM - 5:00 PM****REGISTRATION****LANDMARK FOYER****7:00 AM - 8:30 AM****CGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY MEETING****PERSHING**

<b>7:00 AM - 8:30 AM</b>	<b>CGS MASTER'S COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	<b>LINDELL</b>
<b>7:15 AM - 8:30 AM</b>	<b>PROQUEST, PART OF CLARIVATE BREAKFAST</b> <i>Breakfast open to all attendees</i> <b>GRADUATE PROGRAM INTELLIGENCE: LEVERAGING A CONNECTED FRAMEWORK OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS TO ADVANCE GRADUATE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT, REVIEW AND PLANNING</b> In this interactive discussion, ProQuest will share and solicit ideas for a future offering that extracts useful metrics from a connected framework of dissertations, journal articles, grants, patents and datasets to enable Graduate Deans/Provosts/Research Offices to make data-driven decisions for program assessment, review and planning. <i>Speaker: April Dawn, PhD, Senior Director, Product Management, ProQuest, part of Clarivate</i>	<b>LANDMARK 1-4</b>
<b>7:30 AM - 8:30 AM</b>	<b>NETWORKING BREAKFAST FOR ASSISTANT AND ASSOCIATE DEANS</b> <b>SPONSORED BY DUOLINGO ENGLISH TEST</b> <i>Presider: Janet Rutledge, Dean-in-Residence, Council of Graduate Schools</i>	<b>STATLER</b>
<b>8:00 AM - 8:30 AM</b>	<b>MORNING COFFEE</b>	<b>MAJESTIC D</b>
<b>8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>EXHIBITS OPEN</b>	<b>MAJESTIC D</b>
<b>8:30 AM - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION</b> <i>Michael Cunningham, Chair, Board of Directors, Council of Graduate Schools and Associate Provost, Graduate Studies and Research, Tulane University</i> <i>Suzanne T. Ortega, President, Council of Graduate Schools</i>	<b>MAJESTIC E-H</b>
<b>9:00 AM - 10:30 AM</b>	<b>PLENARY I</b> <b>WIRED FOR POWER: THE NEUROSCIENCE OF EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP</b> Julia DiGangi is a neuropsychologist and expert in the connection between the brain, leadership, and emotion. Research shows that a top threat to leaders' effectiveness is an inability to handle emotional challenges. Dr. DiGangi's innovative work shows leaders how to build emotionally powerful teams that can thrive in dynamic educational environments. This keynote will focus on how the relationship between our brains and emotions impacts our leadership style. <i>Chair: Michael Cunningham, Chair, Board of Directors, Council of Graduate Schools and Associate Provost, Graduate Studies and Research, Tulane University</i> <i>Speaker: Julia DiGangi, Neuropsychologist and author of "Energy Rising: The Neuroscience of Leading with Emotional Power"</i>	<b>MAJESTIC E-H</b>
<b>10:30 AM - 11:00 AM</b>	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b> <b>SPONSORED BY:</b> <b>RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE DIVISION OF TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE</b> <b>SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY</b> <b>WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS</b>	<b>MAJESTIC D</b>
<b>11:00 AM - 12:00 AM</b>	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b> <b>TRANSDISCIPLINARY AND TRANSNATIONAL RESEARCH: TOWARD SOLVING GLOBAL CHALLENGES</b> Today's global challenges - including climate change, migration, and social inequality - are not the domain of a single discipline or nation. Drawing on papers from the 2024 Global Summit, this session will examine how universities across the world are breaking down disciplinary barriers and reaching across national boundaries to solve today's most pressing issues. <i>Speakers: Chevelle Newsome, Dean, Graduate Studies, California State University, Sacramento</i> <i>Fahim Quadir, Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs, Queen's University</i> <i>Silvia Lizett Olivares Oliveras, COMEPO Steering Committee Member, Tecnológico de Monterrey, México</i>	<b>GATEWAY BALLROOM</b>

## HEALTHY LABS: CREATING INCLUSIVE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS

MAJESTIC E-H

A healthy research culture is a critical factor in conducting high-quality research. While approaches may vary, optimal research cultures are underpinned by collaboration, belonging, creativity, and support. Growing out of work at the University of Toronto and in partnership with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), learn about the set of recommendations and the pledge that advisors can sign to signal their commitment to promoting a healthy research environment.

*Speaker: Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education, University of Toronto*

## UNDERSTANDING SHIFTING BEHAVIORS AND TRENDS TO ACHIEVE ENROLLMENT GOALS

MAJESTIC BC

### SPONSORED BY EAB

In a rapidly evolving graduate education landscape, it's critical to keep a pulse on shifting behaviors and trends to meet graduate program enrollment goals. This session will focus on prospective graduate students' criteria for selecting programs and will share survey findings about their communication preferences, barriers to enrollment, and more. New insights into areas of growth for master's programs will also be covered.

*Speakers: Beth Donaldson, Senior Consultant and Principal, Enrollment Services, EAB  
Mark Garrison, Dean, Graduate Studies, Morgan State University  
Terry Jeffries, Assistant Dean, Graduate, Adult, and Extended Studies, Delaware State University*

## RE-ENVISIONING GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION IN DYNAMIC TIMES

LANDMARK 5-6

*MAGS organized session*

Research indicates the importance of fostering a sense of belonging on campuses, particularly to support first generation students, international students, and student populations who have been historically underserved by our institution. We redesigned our in-person Graduate Student Orientation to focus on community-building and belonging in a variety of facets and foster persistence through academic and related challenges. This session highlights the strategies we used to build community with students, faculty, and the institution at large.

*Speakers: Sarah Beal, Professional Development Specialist, Graduate College and Center for Teaching and Learning, Kent State University  
Christa Porter, Interim Dean, Graduate College, Kent State University*

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

## AWARDS CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON

LANDMARK 1-4

*Presider: Suzanne T. Ortega, President, Council of Graduate Schools*

## CGS/PROQUEST DISSERTATION AWARD IN MATHEMATICS, PHYSICAL SCIENCES, AND ENGINEERING

## CGS/PROQUEST DISSERTATION AWARD IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

## ASSISTANT AND ASSOCIATE DEANS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Award support provided by Duolingo English Test

## DEBRA W. STEWART LEADERSHIP AWARD

## ETS/CGS AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN PROMOTING SUCCESS IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

## EXHIBITS OPEN

MAJESTIC D

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

## PLENARY II

MAJESTIC E-H

## MAKING THE CASE FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION WITH YOUR PRESIDENT

To effectively make the case for graduate education on your campus requires a set of facts that can be turned into stories relevant to campus stakeholders, including legislators, board members, and system heads. Two university presidents will discuss what makes a convincing case for the value and contribution of graduate education to the university as a whole and how this can lead to continued or increased support of graduate students and programs.

*Chair: Jeni Hart, Dean and Vice Provost, Graduate Studies, University of Missouri, Columbia*  
*Speakers: Douglas Girod, Chancellor, University of Kansas*  
*Marc Hahn, President, Kansas City University*

**4:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

**MAJESTIC D**

**SPONSORED BY:**

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE**

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**2024 ELECTION OUTCOMES AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

**MAJESTIC E-H**

After historic presidential and congressional elections, it is now time for the CGS graduate deans to come together and discuss what's next. During this session, panelists will discuss the impact of the presidential, congressional, and some state elections on graduate education. Panelists and attendees will have the opportunity to discuss CGS policy priorities and plans to engage the new presidential administration and 119th Congress.

*Speakers: E. Scott Adler, Dean, Graduate School, University of Colorado Boulder*  
*Amanda Godley, Vice Provost, Graduate Studies, University of Pittsburgh*  
*Jennifer Roberts, Senior Vice Provost, Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies, University of Kansas*

**ENTERING MENTORING: FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORSHIP  
IN RESEARCH**

**LANDMARK 5-6**

*WAGS organized session*

The Entering Mentoring program was developed at the Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research (CIMER) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Northern Arizona University's CIMER-trained facilitators guide faculty and graduate student cohorts through conversations that better align expectations, increase effective communication, foster independence, equity & inclusion, assess understanding, and promote professional development. This session will share information from NAU's Entering Mentoring pilot program and the collaborative expansion of the mentoring programming.

*Speaker: Laura Bounds, Associate Vice Provost, Office of Graduate & Professional Studies, Northern Arizona University*

**CAREER TRANSITIONS FOR MASTER'S STUDENTS**

**GATEWAY BALLROOM**

Career transitions are becoming more common due to technological advancements and changing work environments. Successful career transitions often rely on identifying and leveraging transferable skills. This session will explore how to leverage data to gain insights into career transitions for master's students and provide insights on how to support master's student career development through data-driven approaches.

*Speakers: Andrea Golato, Dean, Graduate College, Texas State University*  
*Scott Lanyon, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate Education, University of Minnesota*  
*Chris Nelson, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, University of North Dakota*

**SUPPORTING PERSONALIZED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT USING AI  
AND AUTOMATION**

**MAJESTIC BC**

**SPONSORED BY ELEMENT451**

In the ever-evolving world of graduate education, the integration of AI has become pivotal in creating personalized student experiences. This session explores the power of automation and AI in building and nurturing graduate student relationships, especially for small teams seeking efficiency and effectiveness. Join us as we delve into the practicalities and benefits of leveraging automation and AI-driven CRM tools in graduate education.

*Speakers: Doug Koch, Interim Provost, Southeast Missouri University*  
*Ray Lutzky, VP, Strategic Partnerships, Element451*

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

RECEPTION FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

STATLER

LEAD SPONSOR: RISEPOINT

SPONSOR: THE HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

REGISTRATION

LANDMARK FOYER

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM

CGS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

LINDELL

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

ETS BREAKFAST

LANDMARK 1-4

*Breakfast open to all attendees*

### AI, IT'S IMPLICATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

AI is here to stay and holds tremendous potential for education. It is changing the way we think, learn and work, and its adoption requires embracing a different mindset – one in which everyone is a learner, an innovator, and a creator. AI is creating opportunities and opening doors to innovation in ways that were unimaginable just a few years ago. What are the implications for the way we teach and support learners, and how can we ensure that AI use is appropriate and fair? Join us for a lively discussion about this increasingly pervasive force in our lives, its potential impact on the work we do, and what is needed to ensure AI use is responsible, transparent, and equitable.

*Speakers: Chrystal Molnar, Executive Director of Global Higher Education, ETS*

*John Augusto, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Georgia State University and ETS Graduate Education Advisor*

*Julie Masterson, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate College, Missouri State University*

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

CSGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BREAKFAST

LANDMARK 7

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

NAGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BREAKFAST

MAJESTIC A

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

MORNING COFFEE

MAJESTIC D

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

EXHIBITS OPEN

MAJESTIC D

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

PLENARY III

MAJESTIC E-H

### SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN GRADUATE EDUCATION: STRUCTURE AND STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP-LAPIDUS LECTURE

*The LaPidus lecture was established to honor the late Jules B. LaPidus, a past-president of CGS. The lecture is delivered each year by international leaders and visionary thinkers.*

As both internal and external forces reshape universities, the health and long-term success of graduate education will hinge upon systemic change. In this plenary, Dr. Posselt will present research about the mechanisms of systemic change, providing examples of successful efforts in graduate education and concrete strategies for leading through commonly encountered challenges.

*Chair: Andrew Stott, Dean, Graduate School, University of Southern California*

*Speaker: Julie Posselt, Executive Director, Center for Enrollment Research Policy and Practice and Associate Dean, Graduate School, University of Southern California*

*Discussants: Alyssa Crittenden, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Graduate College, University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

*John Lopes, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate School, Clemson University*

*Denzil Streete, Senior Associate Dean and Director, Graduate Education, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

**MAJESTIC D**

**SPONSORED BY:**

**LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**MASTER'S PROGRAMS AT WORK: COLLABORATIONS WITH EMPLOYERS AND THE COMMUNITY** **GATEWAY BALLROOM**

It has never been more important to embed opportunities for experiential learning into master's program curricula. These connections can support the career-readiness of students, serve the university mission and create new opportunities for research. This session will highlight university programs that are building strong partnerships with employers of their students and the communities they serve.

*Speakers:* Clay Gloster, Dean, Graduate College, North Carolina A&T State University  
Jana Stone, Assistant Vice Provost, Professional Development, Graduate and Postdoctoral Education, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Troy Terry, Dean, Graduate Studies, University of North Georgia

**HEARING ALL VOICES: SUPPORTING UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENT SUCCESS** **MAJESTIC E-H**

Supporting underrepresented students requires deans and other graduate leaders to listen to community needs and create appropriate policies based on that feedback. This session will examine how universities engage with underrepresented students from diverse groups – including low-income students, first-generation students, racial and ethnic minority students, veterans, and others – and how that engagement produces responsive, relevant policies to aid program completion.

*Speakers:* Kellie Cude, Associate Provost, Senior Associate VP for Academic Affairs and Dean, Graduate School, Texas A&M University-Central Texas  
Tau Kadhi, Associate Vice President, Academic Administration and Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Alabama A&M University  
Kirsten Limesand, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Graduate College University of Arizona

**HOW CAN GRADUATE PROGRAMS INCREASE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

**MAJESTIC BC**

**SPONSORED BY DUOLINGO ENGLISH TEST**

In today's globalized education landscape, attracting international students has become a critical objective for graduate programs seeking to diversify their academic community and enrich the learning experience. As US universities face enrollment shifts and potential immigration uncertainties, the panelists will discuss how English proficiency testing affects international student enrollment.

*Speakers:* Alina von Davier, Chief of Assessment, Duolingo English Test  
Andrew Goodliffe, Associate Dean, Graduate School, University of Alabama  
Emory Woodard, Dean, Graduate Studies, Villanova University

**NAVIGATING THE AI EVOLUTION IN GRADUATE EDUCATION: NEW EXPECTATIONS, POWERFUL TOOLS, AND STRATEGIC STEPS FORWARD**

**LANDMARK 5-6**

*CSGS organized session*

This presentation explores how AI is reshaping expectations on deans and faculty. Attendees will gain insight into a variety of powerful AI tools that are revolutionizing pedagogy and research. The session concludes with a practical, actionable strategy being used by universities to move forward in the AI era.

*Speaker:* Wes Fondren, Associate Provost for AI, Professional Development, and Academic Technology, Coastal Carolina University



12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

NETWORKING LUNCHEON

LANDMARK 1-4

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM

LIGHTNING ROUND SESSIONS

**DEVELOPING CUSTOMIZED RESEARCHER TRAINING PROGRAMS TO MEET EVOLVING NEEDS**

MAJESTIC A

**SPONSORED BY NATURE PORTFOLIO**

This session will present case studies of customized training solutions for early-career researchers. We will highlight training programs designed to address diversity, scalability, and adaptability. Through these case studies, we will showcase key milestones, highlight the impactful outcomes, and share lessons learned. This session aims to offer strategic insights and practical recommendations for future training initiatives.

*Speaker: Harry Shirley, Trainer, Nature Masterclasses and Editorial Development Manager, Nature Portfolio*

**ONLINE STUDENT PREFERENCES: A REVIEW OF THE 2024 VOICE OF THE ONLINE LEARNER SURVEY**

MAJESTIC BC

**SPONSORED BY RISEPOINT**

We asked online students what is important to them when choosing a school and program. This session focuses on their preferences drawn from the 2024 Voice of the Online Learner, produced by Risepoint. This 13th annual research report examines the perspectives of over 3,400 online learners, more than half graduate students, with insights on supporting their student journey.

*Speaker: David Capranos, Director, Market Strategy & Research, Risepoint (formerly Academic Partnerships and Wiley University Services)*

**HARNESSING AI TO STREAMLINE GRADUATE ADMISSION PROCESSES**

LANDMARK 5-6

**SPONSORED BY QS QUACQUARELLI SYMONDS**

This session will explore the latest insights from survey feedback, delving into the qualitative and quantitative perspectives of university officers on their current use of AI in the graduate admissions process. It will address prevailing concerns in the rapidly evolving AI landscape and showcase case studies on how institutions are effectively streamlining their graduate admissions processes through AI integration.

*Speaker: Ben Webb, Regional Commercial Director, QS Quacquarelli Symonds*

**STRATEGIES FOR OPTIMIZING GRADUATE ENROLLMENT**

GATEWAY AB

**SPONSORED BY EDUVANTIS**

The graduate student landscape - who's enrolling, preferences for programs, delivery models - continues to change rapidly. To succeed, strategic planning and market-informed data are required. In this session, a playbook for achieving enrollment goals will be shared and discussed, along with the latest, critical, market intelligence, to ensure the planning at your institution is informed, and leads to confident decision making.

*Speaker: Steve Shriberg, Vice President/Partner, Eduvantis*

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

EXHIBITS OPEN

MAJESTIC D

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

PLENARY IV

**TRUST: FOSSILIZED NARRATIVES**

MAJESTIC E-H

In his most recent, Pulitzer prize-winning novel, *Trust*, Hernan Diaz explores what he terms "fossilized narratives." Through repetition and unexamined assumptions, these accounts of history have "hardened over time," becoming easy to accept as truth. At a time when the country and its higher education systems are changing, Diaz will challenge us to reconsider the fossilized narratives we inherit about graduate education. Who is privileged in our accounts of an "ideal" graduate education, and who is missing? How have power relationships shaped our understanding of communities on campuses and the world outside them? Drawing from the lessons of *Trust*, Diaz will inspire us to shape a future for graduate education that takes critical distance from the ossified stories of its past.

*Chair: Graham Hammill, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs and Dean, Graduate School, The University at Buffalo, SUNY*

*Speaker: Hernan Diaz, Author, "Trust"*

**3:30 PM - 4:00 PM**

**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

**MAJESTIC D**

**SPONSORED BY:**

**MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

**4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**NEW PATHWAYS TO MASTER'S DEGREE COMPLETION**

**GATEWAY BALLROOM**

The master's degree has long been a laboratory for innovative ways of thinking about student success. In recent years, new ways of supporting diverse students have emerged to make master's education more accessible to mid-career professionals, adults with caregiving responsibilities, and others who may require more flexibility in their master's education. This session will look at credit for prior learning, microcredentialing, distance learning, and other tools to provide flexible pathways toward master's degree completion.

*Speakers: Siddharth Kaza, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies, Towson University  
Victor Prybutok, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Toulouse Graduate School, University of North Texas  
Diane Slusarski, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate School, Rochester Institute of Technology*

**HUMANISTS SAVE THE WORLD**

**MAJESTIC E-H**

Humanists often do not receive credit for their work to develop solutions to pressing global challenges, even when they play important or leading roles. This session will focus on the missing stories: humanities students and alumni using their training to improve our lives in tangible ways. Presenters will describe programs and policies that support these opportunities for creative problem-solving in collaboration with other humanists and in interdisciplinary teams.

*Speakers: Lisa Schade Eckert, Dean, Graduate Education and Research, Northern Michigan University  
Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Dean, Graduate School, University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Ashby Kinch, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School, University of New Hampshire*

**THRIVING ANALYTICS: LEVERAGING DATA TO OPTIMIZE GRADUATE EDUCATION**

**LANDMARK 5-6**

*NAGS organized session*

The panel will explore the various ways graduate leaders use data to develop actionable steps to improve graduate research and education. Topics include the application of big data analytics to track and improve student and program performance, the use of dashboards to support student admissions, and strategic planning based on data insights. Additionally, the discussion will cover ethical considerations in data use, ensuring student privacy and fairness in data-driven decisions.

*Moderator: Emory Woodard, Dean, Graduate Studies, Villanova University*

*Speakers: Effrosyni Diamantoudi, Dean, Graduate Studies, Concordia University, Canada  
Louis Rossi, Vice Provost, Graduate and Professional Education and Dean, Graduate College University of Delaware  
James Trainer, Associate Vice-President and Executive Director, Office of Strategic Planning & Institutional Effectiveness, Villanova University*

**AMPLIFYING STUDENT VOICES: INSIGHTS TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO GRADUATE EDUCATION**

**MAJESTIC BC**

**SPONSORED BY LIAISON**

Conversations about optimizing graduate program recruitment and enrollment processes often overlook the student perspective. This session will share recent feedback from graduate student focus groups to understand roadblocks to applying to graduate school and identify opportunities to improve the application and enrollment experience for students. Through group discussion, we will consider key themes and strategies that participants can implement on their campuses.

*Speakers: Kenneth Games, Director of Graduate Studies, Indiana State University  
Julie Masterson, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate College, Missouri State University  
Art Munin, AVP, Enrollment Management Solutions, Liaison International  
Stephen Taylor, Research Director, Graduate Education, Liaison International*

**5:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

**DEANS OF COLOR NETWORKING**

**MAJESTIC A**

Join us to meet and network with other colleagues of color within graduate education. Participants will have the opportunity to make connections across institutions, meet members of the CGS Diversity and Inclusiveness Advisory Committee, share resources, and discuss our experiences navigating our positions within academia.

**5:15 PM - 6:30 PM**

**CGS RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**LINDELL**

**5:15 PM - 6:15 PM**

**CGS ADVANCEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**PERSHING**

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

**7:00 AM - 8:00 AM**

**IELTS USA BREAKFAST**

**LANDMARK 1-4**

*Breakfast open to all attendees*

**AWAKENING THE GIANT: UNLEASHING YOUR INSTITUTION'S INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT POTENTIAL**

In today's international higher education landscape, the United States is a "sleeping giant" with vast potential for recruiting international students. Yet, many institutions struggle to attract the right-fit students or to meet recruitment targets, often hindered by limited resources in overburdened graduate admissions offices. This presentation will explore a crucial, often-overlooked factor that could be silently undermining your recruitment and retention success: outdated English Language Proficiency (ELP) policies. Join IELTS USA and the University of Southern Indiana as they share best practices to optimize international student recruitment and retention strategies, ensuring success for your university and your students.

*Speakers: Marianne Schlickeisen, Graduate Program and Research Manager, IELTS USA  
Emilija Zlatkovska, Director, Intensive English Program and Executive Director, International Programs and Services, University of Southern Indiana*

**8:00 AM - 8:30 AM**

**CGS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**MAJESTIC E-H**

President: *Michael Cunningham, Chair, Board of Directors, Council of Graduate Schools and Associate Provost, Graduate Studies and Research, Tulane University*

President's Report: *Suzanne T. Ortega, President*

Board of Directors' Report: *Michael Cunningham, Chair*

Election Results

Committee Reports

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

**PLENARY V**

**MAJESTIC E-H**

**GRADUATE EDUCATION, OPPORTUNITY, AND AI**

As artificial intelligence (AI) has become a ubiquitous feature of our everyday lives, researchers and graduate degree programs are becoming more aware of the technology's benefits, limitations, and implications for social and scientific opportunity. This address considers some of the major scientific and social questions within the AI-society nexus, and how graduate schools are poised to guide the development of responsible and equitable AI systems.

*Chair: Michael Solomon, Dean, Rackham Graduate School and Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, University of Michigan*

*Speaker: Odis Johnson, Jr., Director, Institute in Critical Quantitative, Computational, and Mixed Methodologies, The Johns Hopkins University*

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

**MORNING COFFEE**

**MAJESTIC FOYER**

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**PLENARY VI**

**MAJESTIC E-H**

**THREE-MINUTE THESIS (3MT®): SHOWCASE AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**SPONSORED BY PROQUEST, PART OF CLARIVATE**

Globally, universities and regional organizations of graduate schools are launching 3MT® competitions to help prepare graduate students to communicate the value of their research to a broad audience. This plenary session will showcase the winners of regional competitions and conclude with a roundtable discussion and People's Choice award. Students will reflect on their experiences, offering insights that can help graduate schools develop successful 3MT® competitions and other programs designed to hone students' communication skills.

*Presider: Silvia Lizett Olivares Oliveras, COMEPO Steering Committee Member, Tecnológico de Monterrey, México*

*Winners: Nada Al-Emadi, CAGS Awardee, University of British Columbia*

*Brian Choi, MAGS Awardee, Loyola University*

*Sarah Davis, NAGS Awardee, University of Rhode Island*

*Sindupa De Silva, CSGS Awardee, West Virginia University*

*Kendra Isable, WAGS Awardee, University of Nevada, Reno*

*Anne Johnson, WAGS Awardee, Portland State University*

*Emma Elizabeth Sabu Kattuman, MAGS Awardee, The University of Toledo*

*Dominique Louer, NAGS Awardee, McGill University*

*Michael Mensa, CAGS Awardee, University of Regina*

*Patricia Alejandra Brand Ruvalcaba, COMEPO Awardee, University of Guadalajara*

*Laura Angélica Vera Salazar, COMEPO Awardee, Institute for Scientific and Technological Research of San Luis Potosi*

*Vishal Thomas, CSGS Awardee, Clemson University*

12:00 PM

**MEETING CLOSING**

## MEETING SPONSORS



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