



Leading with Courage,
Integrity, and Resilience

WASHINGTON, DC

DECEMBER 3-6, 2025



CGS 65th ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

REGISTRATION

INDEPENDENCE FOYER

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

CGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

GEORGETOWN

Michael Solomon, Chair, Board of Directors, Council of Graduate Schools and Dean, Rackham Graduate School and Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, University of Michigan

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOPS (PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

STRATEGIC PLANNING DURING TUMULTUOUS TIMES

MONUMENT

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, revenue and changing enrollment patterns.

Speakers: April Boulton, Dean, Graduate School, Hood College
Scott Lanyon, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate and Professional Education, University of Minnesota
Dana Williams, Dean, Graduate School, Howard University

STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING GRADUATE STUDENT WELLNESS

INDEPENDENCE F/G

Good mental health is critical to the success of master's and doctoral students. This session offers practical guidance for supporting graduate students' mental health and well-being. Presenters will share examples and practices that foster stronger support networks and create environments that foster resilience, balance, and thriving. Participants will learn actionable strategies to cultivate a culture of care for master's and doctoral students navigating academic and personal challenges.

Speakers: Terri Camesano, Dean, Graduate Studies, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Jocelyn DeJong, Director, Graduate Council and Associate Provost, American University of Beirut
Sharon Milgram, Director, Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE), National Institutes of Health

MAKING THE CASE FOR THE VALUE OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

SUPREME COURT

Making the case for the resources necessary to support graduate students' academic and career success is perhaps the single most important part of a dean's job. Sometimes, this work involves advocating for a graduate school or other central office. Learn from colleagues who have served as CGS consultants on this topic about the common issues that graduate leaders face and the strategies, tactics, tools, and resources that can help deans lead, rather than lag, organizational transformation.

Moderator: Robert Augustine, Senior Vice President, Council of Graduate Schools

Speakers: Irene Aiken, Dean, Graduate School, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Holger Hooch, Vice Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Dean, Graduate College, University of Vermont

John Weishampel, Interim Dean, College of Graduate Studies, University of Central Florida

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOPS (PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

DEGREES WITHIN REACH: IMPROVING ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

SUPREME COURT

This session explores innovative strategies to reduce financial barriers and expand access to graduate education. Panelists will share cost containment strategies, tools to improve cost transparency, ways to maximize ROI, and other timely topics. Join us for a discussion on practical, scalable approaches to making advanced degrees more attainable for a diverse range of students.

Speakers: James Grover, Dean, Graduate School, The University of Texas at Arlington

Graham Hammill, Senior Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs, and Dean, Graduate School, The University at Buffalo, SUNY

Markus Kemmelmeier, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Graduate School, University of Nevada, Reno

REVIEW OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS: MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL

ARCHIVES

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

NEW MODELS OF UNIVERSITY/EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS

MONUMENT

Graduate education relies more than ever on partnerships with stakeholders in the business, government, and non-profit sectors. This workshop explores innovative collaborations between universities and employers to develop curricula, professional development, and financial support for current and prospective graduate students and employees. It will highlight promising practices involving microcredentials, paid internships, employer tuition reimbursement, and collaborative research projects.

Speakers: Peter Harries, Dean, Graduate School, North Carolina State University

Ranjit Koodali, Dean, Graduate School and Associate Provost, International Affairs, New Mexico State University

Diane Slusarski, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate School, Rochester Institute of Technology

FUNDRAISING FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION**INDEPENDENCE F/G**

With the significant disruptions to federal student aid and investments in basic research, securing external funding from a variety of sources is more important than ever. In this workshop, graduate deans will share strategies for obtaining philanthropic support for graduate education, even when resources are scarce. This hands-on workshop will focus on development fundamentals, building cases for support, and identifying potential donors among alumni, employer, and regional stakeholder networks.

*Speakers: Tabbetha Dobbins, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Rowan University
Clay Gloster, Dean, The Graduate College, North Carolina A&T University
Beth Mayer-Davis, Dean, Graduate School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Robin Poston, Dean, Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, and Associate Provost, Graduate Education, Southern Methodist University*

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

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****LIBERTY****THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4****7:00 AM - 5:00 PM****REGISTRATION****INDEPENDENCE FOYER****7:00 AM - 8:30 AM****CGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY MEETING****GALLAUDET****7:00 AM - 8:30 AM****CGS MASTER'S COMMITTEE MEETING****HOWARD****7:30 AM - 8:30 AM****PROQUEST, PART OF CLARIVATE BREAKFAST****MARQUIS 1-5**

Breakfast open to all attendees

PROQUEST UPDATES AND WEB OF SCIENCE RESEARCH INTELLIGENCE

Global surveys of university Research Offices reveal rising demands on institutions to secure funding, demonstrate impact, and prepare researchers for an AI-driven future. Yet fragmented data and limited visibility hinder strategic planning and assessment. Clarivate's new AI-based Web of Science Research Intelligence platform empowers deans and research leaders with integrated insights to strengthen graduate research, collaboration, and institutional performance.

*Speakers: Gillia C. Smith, Director, Partnerships, ProQuest, part of Clarivate
Stephen DiGiulio, Strategic Research Product Manager, Clarivate*

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM**NETWORKING BREAKFAST FOR ASSISTANT AND ASSOCIATE DEANS****UDC/CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY****SPONSORED BY DUOLINGO ENGLISH TEST**

Presider: Janet Rutledge, Dean-in-Residence, Council of Graduate Schools

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM**MORNING COFFEE****INDEPENDENCE A-E****8:00 AM - 12:00 PM****EXHIBITS OPEN****INDEPENDENCE A-E****8:30 AM - 9:00 AM****WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION****LIBERTY**

*Michael Solomon, Chair, Board of Directors, Council of Graduate Schools and Dean, Rackham Graduate School and Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, University of Michigan
Chevelle Newsome, President, Council of Graduate Schools*

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

PLENARY I

LIBERTY

RESILIENT LEADERSHIP DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

Facing the current landscape in higher education, graduate education leaders stand at a crossroads. Political pressures, funding uncertainties, and shifting public perceptions threaten the foundations of advanced research and scholarly excellence that drive innovation and societal progress. Within these challenges lie profound opportunities for transformation and a renewed sense of purpose. This session will inspire and empower the leaders with the insights, language, and tools needed to champion excellence in graduate education and research.

Chair: Michael Solomon, Chair, Board of Directors, Council of Graduate Schools and Dean, Rackham Graduate School and Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, University of Michigan

Speaker: Freeman Hrabowski, President Emeritus, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

REFRESHMENT BREAK

INDEPENDENCE A-E

SPONSORED BY:

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

MICHIGAN TECH UNIVERSITY

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

TULANE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

THE IMPORTANCE OF GRADUATE EDUCATION TO REGIONAL AND STATE COMMUNITIES

UDC/CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

In this session panelists will discuss the important role that graduate education plays in their university communities including preparing students for jobs that are critical to regional economies; developing faculty pipelines for all levels of education, including K-12 schools and community colleges; and providing expertise and research to serve community needs. Approaches for outreach and engagement with employers and other community partners will be shared.

Speakers: Sarah Gordon, Dean, Jackson College of Graduate Studies, University of Central Oklahoma

Stephanie Huffman, Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives and Dean, College of Graduate, Research & Online Education, University of Northern Iowa

Marisol Perez, Dean, Graduate School, Old Dominion University

BRIDGING THE FUNDING GAP: SUPPORTING STUDENTS AFTER GRAD PLUS

INDEPENDENCE F-H

For the last 20 years, the Graduate PLUS Loan program has been an essential financial resource for students interested in pursuing graduate education. Unfortunately, the Grad PLUS program will be eliminated in July 2026. For this session, panelists will discuss alternative financial resources for prospective students, advice to students on identifying and working with private lenders, and how the elimination of Grad PLUS will impact graduate education.

Moderator: Brandy Randall, Dean, Graduate School, Oakland University

Speakers: Peter Granville, Fellow, The Century Foundation

Jordan Matsudaira, Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University

Karen McCarthy, Vice President, Public Policy and Federal Relations, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)

SPONSORED BY DUOLINGO ENGLISH TEST

International higher education is at a crossroads. Long considered a stable and reliable path to opportunity, it now faces mounting pressures from political backlash, rising costs, shifting demographics, and changing student expectations. How do we safeguard the long-term value and integrity of international higher education? Three core themes are explored in this report and frame the path forward: trust, resilience, and adaptive leadership.

Speakers: Lindsay Addington, Graduate Enrollment Management, Duolingo English Test
 Jessica Cissell, Assistant Provost, Graduate Education and International Community, Washington University in St. Louis
 David Koonce, Dean, Graduate College, Ohio University
 Johnna Watson, Associate Dean, Graduate Enrollment Management and Fundraising, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

EMPOWERING SUCCESSFUL MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS: SUCCESS **CAPITOL/CONGRESS**
STORIES FROM THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS GRADUATE MENTORING CENTER

MAGS organized session

The Indiana University Indianapolis Graduate Mentoring Center (GMC) serves over 500 faculty, staff, and graduate/professional students each year. This presentation will address how to establish a mentoring center in an efficient and cost-effective manner, best practices in organizing and disseminating mentoring presentations, utilizing National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) training materials, and tips on collaborating with schools and departments to extend mentor training across the university.

Speaker: Tabitha Hardy, Assistant Vice Provost, Graduate Education, Indiana University Indianapolis

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

AWARDS CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON

MARQUIS 1-5

Presider: Chevelle Newsome, President, Council of Graduate Schools

CGS/PROQUEST DISSERTATION AWARD IN THE BIOLOGICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES**CGS/PROQUEST DISSERTATION AWARD IN THE HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS****GUSTAVE O. ARLT AWARD****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

INDEPENDENCE A-E

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

PLENARY II

LIBERTY

TOWARD BOLD NEW MODELS OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

Rapid changes in the workforce, changing student demographics, and mounting higher education costs create an opportunity to imagine bold new graduate education models and programs. Panelists will explore issues raised in the 2025 CGS Taskforce report on "Controlling Costs and Optimizing the Value of Graduate Education." How might graduate curricula and capstone projects adapt to meet the reality of diverse and rapidly changing careers? How might the costs of delivering high- quality graduate education be controlled and better distributed?

Moderator: Wendy Boland, Dean, Graduate and Professional Studies, American University
Speakers: Joy Connolly, President, American Council of Learned Societies
 William Karpus, Dean, Graduate School, University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Keivan Stassun, Stevenson Professor of Physics & Astronomy, Vanderbilt University and National Science Board Member

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

REFRESHMENT BREAK

INDEPENDENCE A-E

SPONSORED BY:

DUKE UNIVERSITY

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ADVANCING POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO SUPPORT POSTDOCTORAL SUCCESS

INDEPENDENCE F-H

As the research landscape grows more complex, postdoctoral policies must evolve—supporting not only academic trajectories but also careers in industry, government, nonprofits, and entrepreneurship. Institutions must adapt practices to promote fairness and support postdocs' professional development and well-being. This session explores how graduate schools can shape inclusive, flexible frameworks that respond to the changing needs and aspirations of today's postdoctoral researchers.

Speakers: Marina Holz, Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, New York Medical College
Caleb McKinney, Senior Associate Dean, Training, Program Development, and Academic Innovation, Biomedical Graduate Education, Georgetown University School of Medicine
Stephen Roth, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies, University of Maryland, College Park

AI AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

UDC/CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Artificial intelligence is reshaping research, teaching, and administration across higher education. Drawing from the 2025 Global Summit, this session brings together international graduate education leaders to explore how AI is influencing student learning and success worldwide. Attendees will gain insight into emerging global practices and leave with strategies to responsibly integrate AI into graduate education in ways that support student success and institutional missions.

Speakers: Philippe-Edwin Bélanger, Director, International Office & Department of Graduate Studies and Student Success, National Institute for Scientific Research, Canada
Jocelyn DeJong, Director, Graduate Council and Associate Provost American University of Beirut
Michael Solomon, Chair, Board of Directors, Council of Graduate Schools and Dean, Rackham Graduate School and Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, University of Michigan

THE ADULT LEARNER ADVANTAGE: DRIVE ENROLLMENT WITH CAREER-ALIGNED PROGRAMS

ARCHIVES

SPONSORED BY RISEPOINT

This session will present findings from two Risepoint-supported studies: Chronicle of Higher Education research on Graduate Programs and Work-Force Needs and 2025 Voice of the Online Learner, Graduate Edition (a first in this report's 14-year history). We will explore strategies for attracting, engaging, and retaining adult learners and the best opportunities for growth aligned to labor demands.

Speakers: Lola Norris, Dean, Graduate School, Texas A&M International University
Kerry Pokorny, VP, Research & Insights, Risepoint

**INNOVATIONS IN GRADUATE EDUCATION: CUTTING EDGE/FORWARD- CAPITOL/CONGRESS
THINKING IDEAS TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF GRADUATE EDUCATION IN THE FUTURE**

WAGS organized session

Arizona State University (ASU) has redefined entry points for graduate education by leveraging innovative processes and technologies that align with its mission of inclusivity and success. This presentation will showcase three transformative initiatives aimed at simplifying graduate admissions while expanding opportunities for students and academic units: ASU Personalized Graduate Admissions, Stackable Credentials, and automated Accelerated Master's Program Admissions.

Speakers: Janet Duke, Associate Director, Graduate Program Support, Graduate College, Arizona State University

Amanda Morales-Calderon, Director, Academic Affairs, Arizona State University

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

RECEPTION FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

MARQUIS 5

LEAD SPONSOR: RISEPOINT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

REGISTRATION

INDEPENDENCE FOYER

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

ETS BREAKFAST

MARQUIS 1-5

Breakfast open to all attendees

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS IN TRANSITION: GLOBAL MOBILITY, AI INNOVATION, AND THE CHANGING HIGHER ED LANDSCAPE

The graduate admissions landscape is shifting rapidly - shaped by evolving international mobility, immigration policies, and the accelerating influence of AI. Discover how institutions can adapt and thrive amid these transformations.

Speakers: TBD

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

NAGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BREAKFAST

MONUMENT

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

WAGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BREAKFAST

SUPREME COURT

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

MORNING COFFEE

INDEPENDENCE A-E

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

EXHIBITS OPEN

INDEPENDENCE A-E

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

PLENARY III

LIBERTY

TERMS OF RESPECT: FREE SPEECH AND INCLUSIVITY ON CAMPUS-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.

Conversations about higher education teem with accusations that American universities have 'lost their way' by betraying free speech. These complaints are badly misguided. Colleges and their students remain committed to civil discussion and debate, but they must contend with an American civic crisis driven by partisan polarization and the incentives of social media. To respond, university leaders must articulate their values clearly and develop strategies that promote free speech and inclusivity without compromising either ideal.

Chair: Rodney Priestley, Dean, Graduate School, Princeton University

Speaker: Christopher Eisgruber, President, Princeton University

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

REFRESHMENT BREAK

INDEPENDENCE A-E

SPONSORED BY:

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

UMASS CHAN MEDICAL SCHOOL

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

THE ROLE OF THE IDP IN STUDENT SUPPORT AND SUCCESS

INDEPENDENCE F-H

An Individual Development Plan (IDP) is an important tool to support graduate students to reflect on their short- and long-term academic and career goals. Learn how the graduate school can promote the effective use of IDPs in strengthening the faculty-student mentoring relationship, clarifying pathways through the degree program from orientation through graduation and beyond, and accessing university professional development resources.

Speakers: Juliet Langman, Dean, Graduate College, Kennesaw State University
Josephine Nalbantoglu, Associate Provost (Graduate Education) and Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, McGill University
Kenneth Wong, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Graduate School, University of Maryland, Baltimore

**STRENGTHENING GRADUATE EDUCATION THROUGH GLOBAL
TALENT: DATA, TRENDS, AND ACTION**

UDC/CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

International graduate students are vital to research, innovation, and campus diversity—yet shifting global dynamics demand fresh strategies. In this session, discover the latest data trends, challenges, and opportunities, and learn how graduate schools are responding. Walk away with insights to strengthen recruitment, retention, and advocacy for your international graduate student community.

Speakers: Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Graduate College, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Edward Pohl, Dean, Graduate School and International Education, University of Arkansas
Elizabeth Wentz, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate College, Arizona State University

**THE VALUE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS:
GEORGE W. BUSH INSTITUTE PERSPECTIVES**

CAPITOL/CONGRESS

CSGS organized session

The session will feature insights and data on how graduate schools raise earnings for their graduates, contribute to local economies, and strengthen universities themselves. While universities and graduate schools play vital and irreplaceable roles, they stand at a crossroads and are in need of reform and modernization.

Speaker: Cullum Clark, Director, Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative, George W. Bush Presidential Center

**THE DATA DON'T LIE: BEST PRACTICE MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT
STRATEGIES FOR GRADUATE ENROLLMENT**

ARCHIVES

SPONSORED BY LIAISON INTERNATIONAL

Drawing on Liaison's research data, this session reveals how institutions can strengthen their responses to new prospect inquiries, leverage emerging technologies, and meet graduate enrollment goals. Attendees will gain data-driven insights into aligning recruitment with prospect expectations and creating sustainable outcomes.

Speakers: Jim C. Harper, Interim Associate Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies, North Carolina Central University
Art Munin, AVP, Enrollment Management Solutions, Liaison International
Stephen Taylor, Research Director, Graduate Education, Liaison International

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

NETWORKING LUNCHEON

MARQUIS 1-5

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM

LIGHTNING ROUND SESSIONS

**MAKING MARKETING COUNT: WHAT ACADEMIC LEADERS NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT EFFECTIVE ENROLLMENT MARKETING**

ARCHIVES

SPONSORED BY DIRECT DEVELOPMENT

Learn the essential marketing metrics and benchmarks every academic leader should understand. We'll review the first graduate-level "Marketing-Cost-to-Enroll" benchmark study, explore common tools and channels used to recruit graduate students, and understand whether your marketing investments are paying off. Using real examples from graduate schools, you'll learn how to ask the right questions, spot red flags, and become a more confident partner in enrollment planning.

*Speakers: Tracy Collum, Interim Dean, Graduate School, Idaho State University
Tony Fraga, CEO, Direct Development*

**EXCELLENT MENTAL HEALTH IN ACADEMIA IS ON THE HORIZON:
HERE'S HOW YOU GET THERE FIRST**

INDEPENDENCE F-H

SPONSORED BY DRAGONFLY MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health is no longer a sideline issue—it's a strategic imperative. As graduate education faces mounting pressure, the institutions that lead on mental health will gain a decisive edge in attracting top talent, retaining outstanding faculty, and fostering academic excellence. This session will offer leaders not just a compelling case—but a practical roadmap to promote resilience, belonging, and performance across your graduate community.

*Speakers: Wendy Ingram, CEO, Dragonfly Mental Health
Major General, US Army (Ret) Gregg Martin, Former President, National Defense University*

**UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGING MARKET FOR PROFESSIONAL
GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

CAPITOL/CONGRESS

SPONSORED BY HURON CONSULTING

Professional graduate programs remain in demand and are an important source of resilience and enrollment growth. Driven by surveys, market data, and case studies, this session provides leaders with a strategic review of key trends and their implications – including online learning models, job market trends and employer preferences, the impact of AI, pricing innovations, and microcredentials.

Speaker: Sean Gallagher, Managing Director, Huron Consulting

**THE STEM GRADUATE STUDENT LANDSCAPE: INSIGHTS FROM
NATURE'S 2025 GLOBAL PHD SURVEY**

UDC/CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

SPONSORED BY NATURE

Nature's seventh global survey of thousands of PhD students will be reported in October 2025. Cuts to research funding, immigration crackdowns and advancements in AI could force many to rethink career goals. Responses around mentorship, salary levels, wellbeing and work-life balance will indicate what is needed in graduate student education to better prepare tomorrow's scientists for future career challenges and opportunities.

Speaker: Kendall Powell, Senior Editor, Nature Careers

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

EXHIBITS OPEN

INDEPENDENCE A-E

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

PLENARY IV

LIBERTY

FUTURE PROOF SKILLS: THE EMPLOYER'S PERSPECTIVE

In addition to subject matter expertise, employers are increasingly seeking “essential skills” like effective communication, critical thinking, and teamwork to ensure employees can thrive within their organization. And with the emergence of AI, employees who can connect, adapt, and lead are more important than ever. In this session, employers from a variety of sectors will share how graduate students can “future proof” their skills and how graduate programs can offer opportunities for them to develop these competencies.

Chair: Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Dean, Graduate School, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Speaker: Kristen Fox, CEO, Business Higher Education Forum

Mark Peters, CEO, MITRE Corporation

Daniela Proust, Senior Vice President, Head of People & Organization, Siemens USA

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

REFRESHMENT BREAK

INDEPENDENCE A-E

SPONSORED BY:

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

NEW APPROACHES TO GRADUATE STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INDEPENDENCE F-H

This session examines emerging approaches to graduate student professional development, with attention to mentorship and career preparedness. Presentations will consider models of effective mentoring relationships, institutional support structures, and strategies to prepare students for multiple career trajectories. By integrating research and practice, the session highlights how graduate education can more fully address professional growth as a core component of advanced study.

Speakers: Reginald Ellis, Dean, Office of Graduate Education, Clark Atlanta University

Evangeline Kubu, Senior Associate Dean, Professional Development and Director of GradFUTURES, Princeton University

Aimée Surprenant, Dean, Graduate School, Virginia Tech

EXPANDING ACCESS AND REDUCING PROGRAM COSTS WITH CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

UDC/CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) has the potential to expand access to graduate education and reduce costs and time-to-degree. Before offering CPL, however, universities must consider how they will recognize student work experience, assess competencies, and ensure that policies are aligned with accreditation standards. In this session, participants will examine policy frameworks, strategies for quality assurance and implementation models that balance program innovation with quality.

Speakers: Marc d'Alarcao, Dean, College of Graduate Studies, San Jose State University

Hillary Fouts, Dean, Graduate School, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

ADVOCATING WITH GOVERNMENT SECTORS

CAPITOL/CONGRESS

NAGS organized session

Join us to discuss ways graduate deans, faculty, and students can engage productively and successfully with their state and federal policymakers, program officers, and other government decisionmakers, especially in challenging times. Presenters will share practices and resources for effective, evidence-based advocacy for programs, fellowships, and research funding.

Speakers: Susan Brennan, Distinguished Professor of Cognitive Science, Stony Brook University

Fahim Quadir, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies, Queen's University

THE NEW ONLINE PLAYBOOK FOR GRADUATE GROWTH**ARCHIVES****SPONSORED BY EAB**

Leaders in graduate education are facing new headwinds, from navigating uncertainties in today's political landscape to responding to changing student preferences. In this challenging environment, growing enrollment requires a keen understanding of new market dynamics and strategic, forward-thinking decisions—leading many graduate schools to turn their focus towards expanding their online portfolios. Join this session to hear EAB's new research on growing online graduate programs.

Speakers: Beth Donaldson, Managing Director, EAB

Bill Kosteas, Dean, College of Graduate Studies, Cleveland State University

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**CGS RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING****MONUMENT****5:15 PM - 6:15 PM****CGS ADVANCEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING****SUPREME COURT****SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6****7:00 AM - 8:00 AM****IELTS USA BREAKFAST****CAPITOL/CONGRESS**

Breakfast open to all attendees

IDENTIFYING THE CHATGPT TRAP: HOW TO MAINTAIN A HUMAN-CENTERED INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS APPROACH

In the world of AI and ChatGPT, admissions offices are facing new challenges in identifying deserving students based on authentic work. Join IELTS USA and University of Miami as we identify parts of the admissions process that are at risk of the "ChatGPT trap." We will explore common examples and discuss how to rely on more reliable, human-centered aspects of the admissions process to ensure integrity and fairness.

Speakers: Alexander Mas, Assistant Dean, University of Miami

Marianne Schlickeisen, Graduate Program & Research Manager, IELTS USA

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM**CGS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING****LIBERTY**

President: Michael Solomon, Chair, Board of Directors, Council of Graduate Schools and Dean, Rackham Graduate School and Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, University of Michigan

President's Report: Chevelle Newsome, President

Board of Directors' Report: Michael Solomon, Chair

Election Results

Committee Reports

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM**PLENARY V****LIBERTY****EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION: ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSETS FOR GRADUATE SUCCESS AND BEYOND**

In this keynote, Dr. Ilana Horwitz shares how graduate programs can cultivate entrepreneurial mindsets that empower graduate students to thrive amid academia's uncertainties. Drawing from her book *The Entrepreneurial Scholar*, she shows how graduate programs that shift students from knowledge consumers to producers better prepare them for unpredictable career paths. Her framework empowers early career scholars to create meaningful careers within and beyond traditional academic boundaries.

Chair: Michael Cunningham, Associate Provost, Graduate Studies and Research, Tulane University

Speaker: Ilana Horwitz, Assistant Professor, Jewish Studies and Sociology, Tulane University

10:00 am - 10:30 am **MORNING COFFEE**

LIBERTY FOYER

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM **PLENARY VI**

LIBERTY

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: Effrosyni (Faye) Diamantoudi, Dean, Graduate Studies, Concordia University, Canada

Winners: Sai Aishwarya Abasolo, NAGS Awardee, Stony Brook University

Mourad Abdennebi, WAGS Awardee, University of Arizona

Isaac Angera, MAGS Awardee, University of Notre Dame

Kathryn Glorioso, CSGS Awardee, Medical University of South Carolina

Gabriela Rivera Hernández, COMEPO Awardee, Monterrey Tech

Cristina-Maria Hirschbiegel, NAGS Awardee, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Michelle Janusz, CAGS Awardee, Université Laval

Anamik Jhunjhunwala, CSGS Awardee, Emory University

Rachael Josephs, WAGS Awardee, University of North Dakota

Alexander Sprague, MAGS Awardee, University of Cincinnati

Luis Hernán Carillo Vázquez, COMEPO, Autonomous University of Baja California

Parker Volk, CAGS Awardee, University of Calgary

12:00 PM **MEETING CLOSING**

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