

SUMMER WORKSHOP & NEW DEANS INSTITUTE



JULY 11-15,
2026



Program

New Deans Institute

SATURDAY, JULY 11

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM	REGISTRATION	PALM COURT FOYER
7:30 AM - 8:15 AM	CGS CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	CAMELIA
8:15 AM - 8:30 AM	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS <i>Chevelle Newsome, President, Council of Graduate Schools</i> <i>Michael Solomon, Chair, Board of Directors, Council of Graduate Schools and Dean, Rackham Graduate School and Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, University of Michigan</i>	GRAND BALLROOM
8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	FRESHMAN DEANS' REFLECTIONS The New Deans Institute generally includes the sages of the graduate deanery speaking to newcomers about being as effective as possible in their graduate school roles. Deans, who are themselves "freshman" deans at their institutions, either in or just completing their first years in the position, will report on their experiences. Speakers will share their answers to the questions: "What is the information I didn't have that I wish I would have had during the first year on the job?" and "What was my biggest challenge and my most effective strategy for overcoming this challenge?" <i>Speakers: Angela Canda, Dean, Graduate School, John Carroll University</i> <i>Debra L. Jackson, Dean, Graduate School, East Carolina University</i> <i>Brian Kite, Dean and Vice Provost, Division of Graduate Education, University of California, Los Angeles</i>	GRAND BALLROOM
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM	MORNING COFFEE	FRENCH FOYER
10:15 AM - 11:00 AM	MANAGING BUDGETS: PLANNING, PRIORITIZING, AND ALLOCATING Budgeting requires analysis, personnel management, strategic planning, risk taking, prioritizing, resource allocation, and many decision-making strategies. Dealing with the budget is a factor that can define the success and further investment in graduate education. This session will provide an interactive program of high-impact problem solving aligned with program experiences using real budget challenges recently addressed by current graduate school deans.	GRAND BALLROOM

Speakers: Michael Cunningham, Associate Provost, Graduate Studies and Research, Tulane University
Mary Stromberger, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate Education, The Ohio State University

- 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM** **MANAGING OPERATIONS: TIME, STAFF AND PARTNERSHIPS** **GRAND BALLROOM**
Whether a graduate school has a large staff and complex structure or lean staff and simpler structure, its dean must be adept at using his or her time effectively and efficiently; delegating responsibility to staff members and monitoring workflow; and forging partnerships with central administrative units, campus graduate programs, and graduate faculty and students. This session will include problem-solving activities on each of these responsibilities.
Speakers: Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Dean, Graduate School, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Thomas E. (Tal) Lewis, Dean, Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Cornell University
- 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM** **NETWORKING LUNCH** **CAMELIA**
- 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM** **MANAGING ENROLLMENT: RECRUITMENT, ADMISSIONS, AND FUNDING** **GRAND BALLROOM**
Unlike undergraduate enrollment management, graduate enrollment management is a decentralized and complex enterprise in which graduate schools, programs, and faculty collaborate closely to recruit excellent students, manage transparent and efficient admissions processes, and ensure adequate and effective student funding packages. This session will be interactive.
Speakers: E. Scott Adler, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School, University of Colorado Boulder
Michael Solomon, Dean, Rackham Graduate School and Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, University of Michigan
- 2:45 PM - 3:15 PM** **AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK** **FRENCH FOYER**
SPONSORED BY:
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
- 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM** **ADVOCACY 101** **GRAND BALLROOM**
What is an advocacy opportunity? What messages work and when? Advocacy isn't just an add-on, it is integral to a dean's job. Become a better advocate for graduate education on your campus and with external groups, such as policymakers and the general public. For this session, deans will discuss how to engage and cultivate "third-party validators," such as local and state policymakers, leaders in the business community, and the media.
Facilitator: Amy Scott, Associate Vice President, Government Relations and Public Policy, Council of Graduate Schools
Speakers: Amanda Godley, Vice Provost, Graduate Studies, University of Pittsburgh
Emory Woodard, Dean, Graduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Villanova University
- 4:30 PM - 4:45 PM** **SESSION VI: WRAP-UP** **GRAND BALLROOM**
Chevelle Newsome, President, Council of Graduate Schools
- 6:45 PM** **OPTIONAL DINNER SIGN-UPS** **MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY**
SIGN-UP AT THE REGISTRATION AREA OR AT AFTERNOON BREAK
Dine out with fellow participants and members of the CGS staff! Sign-up sheets will be posted during the Institute. Dinner is pay-your-own-way, and restaurants vary by cuisine and cost.

Summer Workshop

SUNDAY, JULY 12

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM **REGISTRATION** **PALM COURT FOYER**

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM **CGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** **VENETIAN**

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM **WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF CGS** **GRAND BALLROOM**
Chevelle Newsome, President, Council of Graduate Schools

1:15 PM - 2:45 PM **PLENARY I: GRADUATE EDUCATION DISRUPTED:
NAVIGATING OUR REPUBLIC IN SUPPORT OF GRADUATE EDUCATION** **GRAND BALLROOM**

Erosion of trust in higher education has put graduate education on the defensive. To effectively build a new future that benefits our Republic and the world, we must employ new strategies to make the case for graduate education. Building on two cases from the South and Northeast regions of the US, the session seeks to support graduate education leaders in navigating the Republic using polling and workforce data to inform strategy, trust, public purpose, and advocacy.

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

Chair: *Mark Robson, Associate Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Rutgers University*

Speaker: *William F. Tate IV, President, Rutgers University*

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM **AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK** **FRENCH FOYER**

SPONSORED BY:

INDIANA UNIVERSITY - BLOOMINGTON

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM **CONCURRENT GRADUATE LEADER DIALOGUES**

**DESIGNING GRADUATE EDUCATION FOR TOMORROW:
SYSTEMS, STUDENTS AND INSTITUTIONAL RESILIENCE** **WALTON**

As graduate student demographics evolve and institutional pressures intensify, graduate education leaders must reimagine the systems and structures that support student success. This session brings together four complementary perspectives on designing responsive, resilient graduate education infrastructure that center students' needs while building institutional capacity. Together, paper presentations provide frameworks for redesigning graduate education structures that cultivate institutional resilience in an era of constant transformation.

Moderator: *David Eddington, Dean, Graduate College, University of Illinois Chicago*

Speakers: *Susan Hilderbrand, Vanderbilt University, "Beyond Efficiency: A Case Reflection on Human Connection in Graduate Workflow Systems"*

Nico Hohman, Georgetown University, "The Graduate Youth Index: Understanding the Rise of Younger Graduate Students and What It Means for Graduate Education"

Michael Mills, University of Central Arkansas, "Anti-Fragile by Design: Strengthening Broadly Accessible Institutional Practices and Cultivating Communities"

Ana M. Rodriguez-Rodriguez, University of Iowa, "Supporting International Graduate Students: A Multi-Layered Institutional Model for Holistic Success"

**STRATEGIC LEVERS FOR TRANSFORMING GRADUATE MENTORING
AND PROGRAMMATIC INNOVATION**

FRENCH

This session explores how graduate leaders can deploy institutional levers to fundamentally strengthen mentoring cultures and advance programmatic innovation. Collectively, these presentations reveal how intentional use of institutional architecture, such as training systems, governance mechanism, and external partnerships, can create the conditions for sustained excellence in graduate education.

Moderator: Kristen Eichorn, Dean, Graduate Studies, State University of New York at Oswego

Speakers: Carianne Hayslett, Marquette University, "Marquette University Program Incubator: Fostering Innovative Graduate Programs for Student and Market Success"

Kayla Kruse, Ohio State University, "From Insight to Implementation: Leveraging Shared Governance to Facilitate Graduate Mentoring Success"

Emily Leventhal, Florida State University, "Power in Partnerships: Reinventing Strategic University Relationships to Improve Doctoral Student Success and Career Outcomes"

Sara Anne Tompkins, Colorado State University, "Mentor Well, Lead Well: Improving Graduate Mentoring Through Training, Infrastructure, and Policy Levers"

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

OPENING RECEPTION

GOLD COAST

MONDAY, JULY 13

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

REGISTRATION

PALM COURT FOYER

7:00 AM – 7:45 AM

CGS MASTER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

VENETIAN

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

**BREAKFAST: SPONSORED BY PROQUEST (PART OF CLARIVATE)
UPDATES ON ACCESSIBILITY AND AI**

GOLD COAST

This presentation will share recent advances to ProQuest / Clarivate's dissertations tools and services, including how accessibility resources are being implemented to support upcoming Federal regulations as well as providing initial results of a study detailing how graduate students are interacting with AI tools.

Presider: Austin McLean, Senior Director, Partnerships, ProQuest

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

**PLENARY II: THE PROVOST PERSPECTIVE:
ENGAGING CHANGE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN BUILDING A STRONG GRADUATE EDUCATION**

GRAND BALLROOM

A strong partnership between the graduate education leader and the provost is essential to supporting graduate education. In a rapidly changing environment, graduate leaders must understand their provost's perspective and work constructively with them. With graduate enrollment central to institutional strategy, leaders must assess the provost's readiness for change and collaborate to adapt graduate education to external realities. Learning to "read" the provost equips graduate leaders with change-management skills and empowers them as change agents.

Moderator: Claudia Petrescu, Associate Vice President, Graduate Education and Internationalization Initiatives, Illinois State University

*Speakers: Gretchen Ritter, Executive Vice President and Provost, University of Minnesota
Christopher Sindt, President and former Provost, Lewis University*

Ani Yazedjian, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Illinois State University

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

MORNING COFFEE BREAK

FRENCH FOYER

SPONSORED BY:

INDIANA UNIVERSITY - BLOOMINGTON

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

CONCURRENT DEAN'S TOOLBOXES

NO-COST/LOW-COST STRATEGIES FOR GRADUATE RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

WALTON

In this interactive "toolbox" session, you will learn practical, no-cost or low-cost strategies to strengthen recruitment and enrollment management. At a time when enrollment is softening for some degrees, attendees will learn how to 1) optimize recruitment funnels through existing technologies; 2) improve yield through targeted communication, and 3) leverage existing data and campus partnerships. Participants will leave with adaptable tactics that can be implemented without new technology or significant budget investments.

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

Troy Terry, Dean, Graduate Studies, University of North Georgia

BEYOND THE FACULTY TRACK: EVOLVING THE PFF MODEL FOR CAREER SUCCESS

PARKSIDE

This session will explore how IU Indianapolis evolved the traditional "Preparing Future Faculty" model to support diverse career paths. We will discuss how to 1) build an exploratory professional and career development program, 2) leverage cross-campus partnerships to expand opportunities, and 3) utilize digital badges to recognize student competencies. Join us to discover a practical framework for preparing graduate scholars for success in the academy and the broader workforce.

Speaker: Tabitha Hardy, Assistant Dean, Student Success and Student Development, Indiana University Indianapolis

BUILDING AI LITERACY: PRINCIPLES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

FRENCH

As universities develop guidance for AI in graduate education, uneven familiarity with AI among both faculty and graduate students presents a challenge. This session shares the University of Illinois approach to strengthening AI literacy and responsible AI use through institutional guidance and community engagement. Attendees will learn 1) how shared frameworks can guide AI use, 2) how to engage faculty and graduate students in shaping responsible practices, and 3) how to implement AI literacy through pilots, training, and cross-campus collaboration.

Speaker: Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

SCROLLING FOR CHANGE: HOW GRADUATE DEANS ARE USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO CHAMPION GRADUATE EDUCATION

DRAKE

Graduate deans are taking advocacy beyond the boardroom—leveraging Instagram and other platforms to amplify the value of graduate education, connect directly with students, and influence broader conversations about graduate training. Attendees will learn how to 1) develop a compelling social media presence that reflects their institution's graduate mission; 2) create content that resonates with prospective and current students; and 3) use social media as an effective advocacy tool.

*Speakers: Nicole Lounsbery, Director, Graduate School, South Dakota State University
Joy Williamson-Lott, Dean, Graduate School, University of Washington*

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

NETWORKING LUNCH

GOLD COAST

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM

CGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADVOCACY & PUBLIC POLICY LUNCH MEETING

VENETIAN

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

CONCURRENT GRADUATE LEADER DIALOGUES

ADDRESSING GAPS IN GRADUATE STUDENT CAREER DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ENHANCED FACULTY MENTORSHIP

WALTON

Graduate schools strive to support graduate student career development, yet many students struggle with career exploration, decision-making, and readiness, contributing to career confusion and mental health challenges. This session features panelists from NIH- and NSF-funded initiatives—pd|hub, CIMER, and I3IDP—who will share evidence-based frameworks, lessons learned, and ready-to-use curricula for career planning and mentorship. Participants will discuss gaps, explore collaborative strategies, and identify actionable steps to strengthen career-related mentoring and reduce faculty burden.

Speakers: Cynthia Fuhrmann, Principal Investigator, Professional Development Hub and Associate Professor, UMass Chan Medical School
Katie Kearns, Collections Specialist, Professional Development Hub
Christine Pfund, Deputy Director, Wisconsin Center for Education Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP IN GRADUATE EDUCATION: BUILDING VISION, MANAGING CHANGE, AND DEVELOPING TEAMS

FRENCH

Graduate education leaders often excel at mentoring students but face different challenges when developing staff and emerging leaders. This panel explores shifting from student-centered mentorship to organizational leadership development through intentional structures that support growth, collaboration, and adaptability. Panelists will discuss frameworks such as immunity to change and distributed leadership, highlighting strategies that promote reflection, role clarity, and skill building. Investing in staff development strengthens leadership pipelines, enhances operational effectiveness, and fosters a culture of continuous improvement.

Speakers: Lindsey S. Aloia, Associate Dean, Graduate School & International Education, University of Arkansas
Carrienne Hayslett, Associate Dean, Strategic Innovation and Academic Program Development, Marquette University
Claudia Petrescu, Associate Vice President, Graduate Education and Internationalization Initiatives, Illinois State University
Kerry Wilks, Associate Vice Chancellor, Graduate Studies and Research, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

4:00 PM - 5:45 PM

RIVER AND LAKE CRUISE

MEET AT DOCK

Experience Chicago like never before on a private departure with First Lady Cruises. Perfect for visitors and locals alike, this exclusive 90-minute journey showcases the city from its most spectacular vantage points: the Chicago River and Lake Michigan. Your expert guide will share lively stories that bring Chicago's rich history and bold innovation to life as guests take in the city's soaring skyscrapers, iconic bridges, and engineering achievements. This trip includes an up-close look at the fascinating Chicago Harbor Lock as the vessel passes into Lake Michigan. Ticket price includes beer, wine, soft drinks, and light snacks. Ticket price: \$70. As space is limited, pre-registration is required. **Tickets will not be available for purchase onsite.**

TUESDAY, JULY 14

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

REGISTRATION

PALM COURT FOYER

7:00 AM - 7:45 AM

CGS RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

GEORGIAN

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	BREAKFAST: SPONSORED BY ETS	GOLD COAST
	ALIGNING PERSPECTIVES IN GRADUATE EDUCATION: WHAT STAKEHOLDERS ARE TELLING US Learn from new insights into motivations, decision-making, and priorities shaping graduate education across students, graduate enrollment professionals, and institutional leaders. <i>Speakers: Catherine Fields, National Director of Educational Partnerships, ETS</i>	
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	PLENARY III: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A CHANGING LABOR MARKET	GRAND BALLROOM
	The labor market is shifting rapidly as technology, especially AI, reshapes jobs and hiring, pressuring traditional entry-level roles. This session opens with an overview of economic and labor trends affecting graduate students and the implications for graduate program value and delivery. It then explores how graduate education can respond, highlighting strategies across institutions: faculty roles, adaptive curricula, intentional career integration, and stronger pathways linking education to post graduation employment. <i>Chair: Clay Gloster, Dean, Graduate College, North Carolina A&T State University</i> <i>Speaker: Rachel Lipson, Research Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School</i>	
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	MORNING COFFEE BREAK	FRENCH FOYER
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CONCURRENT HOT TOPIC SESSIONS	
	BREAKING NEWS: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DC AND THE IMPACT ON GRADUATE EDUCATION	VENETIAN
	<i>Facilitators: Levon Esters, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, J. Jeffrey and Ann Marie Fox Graduate School, Pennsylvania State University</i> <i>Robin Poston, Associate Provost and Dean, Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, Southern Methodist University</i>	
	DOMESTIC STUDENT RECRUITMENT: POLICY BARRIERS AND MESSAGES THAT RESONATE	WALTON NORTH
	<i>Facilitators: Kelly Schrum, Assistant Provost for Graduate Academic Affairs, George Mason University</i> <i>Jerry McMurty, Dean, College of Graduate Studies, University of Idaho</i>	
	THE 3-YEAR BACCALAUREATE IN NORTH AMERICA: ARE WE READY?	FRENCH
	<i>Facilitators: Stephen Roth, Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, University of Maryland, College Park</i> <i>Phillip Payne, Interim Dean, Graduate School, Kansas State University</i>	
	STRATEGIES FOR INSTITUTIONS WITH A SMALLER GRADUATE FOOTPRINT	WALTON SOUTH
	<i>Facilitators: Desideria (Desi) Hacker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research, Norfolk State University</i> <i>Steven Sylvester, Director, Graduate Studies, Utah Valley University</i>	
	NEW APPROACHES FOR DOCTORAL STUDENT FUNDING	PARKSIDE
	<i>Facilitators: Mark Garrison, Dean, Graduate Studies, Morgan State University</i> <i>Rodney Priestley, Dean, Graduate School, Princeton University</i>	
	SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE CURRENT VISA POLICY ENVIRONMENT	DRAKE
	<i>Facilitators: Lidia Kos, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies, University of California, Riverside</i> <i>Denzil Streete, Senior Associate Dean and Director, Office of Graduate Education, Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i>	
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH	GOLD COAST
12:15 PM - 1:00 PM	CGS ADVANCEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE LUNCH MEETING	SUPERIOR

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

CONCURRENT TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

BEYOND THE DISSERTATION: HOLISTIC APPROACHES TO DOCTORAL STUDENT SUCCESS

WALTON

This transformative workshop is designed for leaders in graduate education who seek to elevate experiences and outcomes of doctoral students. Drawing on research and best practices from a decade of work with underrepresented doctoral students, the session will spotlight systemic barriers and innovative strategies that foster equity, resilience, and belonging in graduate education for the benefit of all graduate students regardless of personal demographics or discipline.

Speakers: Mayra Artiles, Assistant Professor, Engineering Education, The Ohio State University
Holly Matusovich, Associate Dean, Graduate and Professional Studies, Virginia Tech
Gwen Lee Thomas, CEO, Quality Measures, LLC

FROM TEACHING PREPARATION TO CAREER READINESS: GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT SCALE

FRENCH

Graduate deans face mounting pressure to deliver scalable, high-impact professional development for graduate students. This workshop highlights credit-bearing teaching academics and cross-institutional models that strengthen teaching, transferable skills, and professional agency. Using examples from multiple universities and the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL) Network, presenters showcase adaptable curricula, partnerships, and measurable outcomes. Attendees will gain practical strategies to expand opportunity and implement sustainable models that advance graduate success and career readiness at their institutions.

Moderator: Taunya Plater, Associate Director, Academic Success, Creighton University
Speakers: Adam Fontecchio, President and Executive Director, Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL), Drexel University
Allyson Hallman-Thrasher, Associate Dean, Student Success, Graduate College, Ohio University
Julie Harlin Wolf, Associate Dean, Graduate and Professional School, Texas A&M University
Jeremy Henkel, Associate Director, Faculty Programming, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, Ohio University

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

7:15 AM - 8:00 AM

COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS MEETING

VENETIAN

7:45 AM - 8:45 AM

BREAKFAST: SPONSORED BY RISEPOINT

GOLD COAST

2026 VOICE OF THE ONLINE GRADUATE LEARNER: FLEXIBILITY, AI, AND THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

Gain insights from the *2026 Voice of the Online Learner: Graduate Edition* to explore how institutions can design flexible programs that align with evolving student demand. The report's lead researcher will also highlight how adult graduate learners expect institutions to integrate AI into instruction and career pathways.

Presider: Kerry Pokorny, Vice President, Research and Insights, Risepoint

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

BEING A CATALYST FOR IMPROVING GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS: COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR STRATEGIC CHANGE

FRENCH

Graduate assistantships play a critical role in supporting graduate students and recruiting top talent, yet their structures and policies vary widely. In this interactive workshop, presenters will share strategies for organizing and aligning GA positions and policies across institutions.

Participants will engage in small-group discussions and activities to exchange best practices and develop action plans around policies, contracts, funding, and unionization—leaving with concrete steps to strengthen GA administration at their institutions.

Speakers: Ashlyn Gray, Director of Graduate Financial Services, Graduate College, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Debra L. Jackson, Dean, Graduate School, East Carolina University

Sharon James McGee, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School, East Tennessee State University