

Resilient by Design: Graduate Education for a Changing World

LOS ANGELES, CA

DECEMBER 2-5, 2026

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS



CGS 66th ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 2

8:00 am - 6:00 pm **Registration** **Platinum Foyer**

8:30 am - 12:00 pm **CGS Board of Directors Meeting** **Olympic III**

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 Approaches to Graduate Enrollment Management and Forecasting: Personalized Planning to Support Institutional Goals **Plaza II**

The session will focus on developing personalized, institution-specific enrollment plans that leverage shared resources and strategic partnerships to foster sustainable growth. Presenters will share approaches to optimizing recruitment, retention, and yield among domestic and international graduate populations, while considering the implications of demographic shifts and global trends. The soon to be launched CGS Enrollment Management Resource will also be featured in this discussion to aid these conversations on your campuses.

Speakers: *Sarah Larsen, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School, University of Houston*
Rodrigo Rentería-Valencia, Dean, Graduate Education, Research, and Strategic Initiatives, Central Washington University
Andrew Stott, Vice Provost, Academic Programs and Dean, Graduate School, University of Southern California

Empowering Graduate Student Success Through Mental Health and Well-Being Initiatives **Plaza III**

Graduate students can experience significant challenges, particularly as they navigate unfamiliar cultures, financial pressures, and competing responsibilities. This session highlights evidence-based and innovative approaches to supporting graduate students, including faculty and staff training, culturally responsive services, and peer support initiatives. Presenters will share institutional strategies for fostering a culture of care. Participants will gain practical, actionable approaches to strengthen well-being and create inclusive environments where graduate students can thrive.

Speakers: *Peter Biehl, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Graduate Division, University of California, Irvine*
Stephen Crites, Dean, Graduate School, University of Texas at El Paso
Aimée Surprenant, Dean, Graduate School, Virginia Tech

Lunch on Your Own

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm **Pre-meeting Workshops *(pre-registration required)***

Fundraising for Graduate Education — Olympic I

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, Graduate College, North Carolina A&T State University
Robin Poston, Dean, Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, and Associate Provost, Graduate Education, Southern Methodist University

Program Review in a Changing Accreditation Landscape: Positioning Graduate Programs for What's Ahead — Plaza II

Assessment of master's and doctoral programs offers a critical opportunity for reflection and strategic decision-making. Presenters will share best practices for managing program review processes, leveraging data to drive evaluation and continuous improvement, and aligning efforts with disciplinary and institutional accreditation requirements. Participants will also gain insight into how institutions can proactively prepare for an evolving and increasingly complex accreditation landscape.

Speakers: *Steph Bernell, Dean, Graduate Education, Oregon State University*
Reginald Ellis, Dean, Office of Graduate Education, Clark Atlanta University
Stephen Roth, Associate Provost and Dean, The Graduate School, University of Maryland, College Park

Scalability, Acceleration, and Collaboration: New Strategies for Addressing Enrollment and Affordability — Plaza III

Graduate programs across the country are struggling with the intertwined challenges of maintaining enrollment and keeping programs affordable. This session will explore three strategies that combine enrollment management tactics with cost containment – accelerated degree programs, regional tuition models, and large-scale online programs – as ways to keep programs financially viable for institutions and affordable for students. Presenters will share strategies from their own institutions as well as ways that these strategies may be deployed at different types of institutions.

Speakers: *Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Graduate College, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*
Bonnie Ferri, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Faculty Development, Georgia Institute of Technology
Diane Slusarski, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate School, Rochester Institute of Technology

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm **All Day Workshop *(Members only. Pre-registration required. Limited to 25 people)***

Leading at the Summit: An Institute for Senior Graduate Leaders — Plaza I

This institute is a professional development opportunity for experienced graduate leaders (3+ years in the dean's or associate dean's role) seeking to deepen their leadership capacity and broaden their institutional influence.

The two workshops are designed as an integrated whole: Part I sharpens the internal dimensions of advanced leadership, with an emphasis on values, identity, and philosophy, while Part II focuses on navigating external factors, equipping deans and senior graduate leaders to lead complex change across their institutions and the field.

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **New Member and First-time Attendee Meet and Greet** **Platinum 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.

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm **Film Screening and Filmmaker Conversation: *The Cuts*** **Diamond 9-10**

Begin the annual meeting with a screening and conversation, rooted in Southern California's storytelling tradition. *The Cuts*, is a short dark comedy that follows a fictional college theatre department as faculty members confront a severe budget shortfall and propose ever more improbable schemes to stay afloat. Through sharp humor and recognizable institutional dynamics, the film offers a timely and incisive mediation on the fiscal pressures facing academic programs, and on the choices graduate leaders make when resources are scarce. The screening is followed by discussion with the filmmakers.

Moderator: *Lidia Kos, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies, University of California, Riverside*
Writer: *Annika Speer, Associate Professor of Theater, Film, and Digital Productions, University of California, Riverside*
Director: *Noah Arjomand, Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow in Media and Cultural Studies, University of California, Riverside*

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm **Opening Reception** **Platinum A-D**

with support from:
UC System (Power of Ten)
University of Southern California
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Thursday, December 3

7:00 am - 5:00 pm **Registration** **Platinum Foyer**

7:00 am - 7:45 am **CGS Advisory Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy Meeting** **Olympic II**

7:00 am – 7:45 am **CGS Master's Committee Meeting** **Olympic I**

7:30 am - 8:30 am **ProQuest, part of Clarivate Breakfast** **Gold 2-3**

Breakfast open to all attendees

Federal Accessibility Guidelines and Dissertations & Theses

ProQuest will provide an update on its services, including the new free accessibility tools that have been implemented as part of the dissertations and theses submission process to support the Federal regulations which begin in April 2027.

Speakers: *Jeff Anugbigian, Vice President, Product Management, ProQuest, part of Clarivate*
Mark Dill, Product Manager, ProQuest, part of Clarivate

7:30 am - 8:30 am **Networking Breakfast for Assistant and Associate Deans** **Gold 1**

Sponsored by Duolingo English Test

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

8:00 am - 8:30 am **Morning Coffee** **Platinum E-J**

8:00 am - 12:00 pm **Exhibits Open** **Platinum E-J**

8:30 am – 9:00 am **Welcome and Opening Session** **Platinum A-D**

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** **Platinum A-D**

The Global Landscape of Graduate Education: Challenges and Opportunities

Graduate education is being transformed by a rapidly evolving global landscape: geopolitical shifts, changing patterns of international student mobility, evolving workforce demands, growing pressures to demonstrate global and local relevance, and new research and education hubs. This session examines these dynamics as shared design challenges that call for innovation, collaboration, partnerships, and institutional resilience. Drawing on international perspectives and global trends, it offers graduate education leaders forward-looking strategies for strengthening cross-border partnerships and preparing future-ready graduate students.

Chair: *Brian Kite, Dean and Vice Provost, Division of Graduate Education, University of California, Los Angeles*

Speaker: *Cindy Fan, Vice Provost for International Studies and Global Engagement, University of California, Los Angeles*

10:30 am - 11:00 am **Refreshment Break** **Platinum E-J**

Sponsored by:
New Mexico State University
San Diego State University
The Pennsylvania State University
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Wayne State University

11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

2026 Election Outcomes and What it Means for the Graduate Education Community — Platinum A-D

Now that the 2026 midterm elections are over, it is time for the CGS membership to plan for the future; to make plans to engage the 120th Congress, look for opportunities to engage the administration, and foster on-campus working relationships to help advocate for graduate education. In this session, panelists will discuss the implications of the recent elections for graduate education policy, share strategies for building effective relationships with Members of Congress and discuss ways institutions can demonstrate the value and impact of graduate education in their communities.

Moderator: *Amy Scott, Associate Vice President for Government Relations and Public Policy, Council of Graduate Schools*

Speakers: *Levon Esters, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, J. Jeffrey and Ann Marie Fox Graduate School, Pennsylvania State University*
Amanda Godley, Vice Provost, Graduate Studies, University of Pittsburgh
Mark Sheridan, Vice Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs and Dean, Graduate School, Texas Tech University

Building Global Citizens: Preparing Graduate Students to Thrive in an Interconnected World — Plaza II-III

This session explores strategies for cultivating global and multicultural competencies among graduate students. Presenters will share approaches to designing meaningful international experiences, fostering intercultural understanding, and building genuine community between domestic and international students. Attendees will leave with practical frameworks for embedding global learning into graduate education including strengthening students' ability to collaborate across cultures and thrive in increasingly diverse academic and professional environments.

Speakers: *Clay Gloster, Dean, Graduate College, North Carolina A&T State University*
John Peever, Vice-Dean Students, School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto
Samiksha Raut, Director, Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs, Mohamed bin Zayed University of AI

Building a Stronger Graduate Portfolio with Market and Student Insights — **Gold 4**

Sponsored by EAB

A strong graduate program portfolio must respond to both the evolving needs of employers and the changing expectations of prospective students. But deciding which programs to invest in, refresh, or sunset requires more than labor market data alone. Drawing on EAB market intelligence and survey findings from 6,000+ prospective graduate students, this session will explore how institutions can combine market and student insights to make more informed portfolio decisions.

Speakers: *Mark Garrison, Dean, Graduate Studies, Morgan State University*
Beth Evans, Senior Consultant and Principal, Enrollment Services, EAB

Reimagining Doctoral Education: Tracking, Connecting, and Bridging — **Gold 1**

NAGS organized session

This panel brings together leaders from Canada and the United States to explore how doctoral training can better prepare graduates for diverse career pathways. Through evidence on PhD employment outcomes, innovative approaches to competency recognition and microcredentials, and a discussion on university-industry partnerships, this panel examines how institutions can strengthen connections between doctoral education, workforce needs, and societal impact.

Moderators: *Tabbetha Dobbins, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Rowan University*
Annie Pilote, Dean, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Université Laval

Speakers: *Julie Carrier, Deputy Vice-President Graduate and Postdoc Studies, Université de Montréal*
Sasha Goldman, Senior Director, Center for the Future of Higher Education and Work, College of Professional Studies, Northeastern University

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm — **Awards Ceremony and Luncheon** — **Gold 2-3**

Presider: *Chevelle Newsome, President, Council of Graduate Schools*

CGS/ProQuest Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences

CGS/ProQuest Dissertation Award in Mathematics, Physical Sciences & Engineering

Debra W. Stewart Leadership Award

ETS/CGS Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm — **Exhibits Open** — **Platinum E-J**

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm — **Plenary II** — **Platinum A-D**

Making the Case for Graduate Education: Earning the Public's Trust

As policymakers and the public question the value of higher education at every level, graduate and professional programs face a perfect storm of skepticism: declining confidence in higher education overall, sweeping changes to federal funding and student lending, and a cultural moment in which the workforce return on investment is measured in immediate financial terms. This plenary convenes three distinguished voices to discuss making the compelling, evidence-based public argument for the value of graduate education.

Moderator: *Thomas (Tal) Lewis, Dean, Graduate School and Vice Provost, Graduate Education, Cornell University*

Speakers: *Ray Bowman, Small Business Development Center Director, Economic Development Collaborative*
Kristen Eichhorn, Dean, Graduate Studies, State University of New York at Oswego
Jeremy Young, Senior Advisor for Strategic Initiatives, American Association of Colleges & Universities

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm **Refreshment Break** **Platinum E-J**

Sponsored by:
Arizona State University
Cornell University
Duke University
Texas A&M University
University of California, Berkeley
University of Georgia
University of Michigan

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

Continuing the Conversation on Public Trust: How Universities are Responding to Changing Student Needs and Market Realities — Platinum A-D

Public trust in higher education is increasingly tied to concerns about affordability, student debt, workforce outcomes, and the perceived value of academic programs. At the same time, institutions face unprecedented pressures from demographic shifts, changing learner preferences, rapid technological advancement, and growing demands for workforce alignment. Rather than focusing solely on the challenges facing higher education, the discussion will explore how institutions are evolving to demonstrate responsiveness, accountability, and value in an increasingly competitive environment.

Speakers: *Constantin Chassapis, Senior Vice Provost, Graduate Education, Stevens Institute of Technology*
Jean-Pierre Delplanque, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies, University of California, Davis
Elizabeth Mayer-Davis, Dean, Graduate School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Three-Year Bachelor's Degrees and Graduate Admissions Policies — Plaza II-III

As U.S. institutions pilot accelerated undergraduate pathways to a bachelor's degree, such as three-year and reduced-credit models, graduate schools are beginning to consider implications for graduate admissions policies, student progression toward a graduate degree, and timely graduation. This session explores emerging institutional approaches, accreditation and transcript considerations, equity implications, and implementation challenges. Participants will discuss policy options and strategies for balancing academic quality, transparency, and access as accelerated undergraduate pathways expand.

Speakers: *Innokentiy Maslennikov, Associate Vice Provost, Graduate Education, Chapman University*
Phillip Payne, Interim Dean, Graduate School, Kansas State University
Mary Stromberger, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School, Ohio State University

What Will Drive Future Growth for Graduate Education? Reaching and Retaining More Adult Learners — Gold 4

Sponsored by Risepoint

As graduate schools face enrollment pressures and evolving workforce demands, adult learners are a critical growth opportunity. Drawing from the latest *Voice of the Online Graduate Learner* research, this session explores what these older students value most, what drives enrollment and persistence, and how institutions should adapt. Session participants will hear a case study of how one university translated these insights into action.

Speakers: *Christopher Slaten, Associate Provost, Research and Dean, Graduate School, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville*
Kerry Pokorny, VP, Research & Insights, Risepoint

Mentoring: Training to Improve Graduate Faculty Review When Problematic — **Gold 1**

MAGS organized session

The University of Illinois Chicago offers CIMER-based Mentoring Workshops, certifying over 200 graduate faculty mentors. We also revised bylaws to establish a review process for mentoring misconduct, treating graduate faculty membership as a privilege with consequences ranging from demotion to removal. This session shares lessons from mentor training, bylaw changes, and early review cases, with interactive exercises on cultivating good mentors and addressing toxic ones.

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

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm **Reception for all Participants** — **Gold 2-3**

Lead Sponsor: Risepoint

Friday, December 4

7:30 am - 5:00 pm **Registration** — **Platinum Foyer**

7:30 am - 8:30 am **ETS Breakfast** — **Gold 2-3**

Breakfast open to all attendees

From Signals to Strategy: Strengthening Graduate Enrollment Decisions

Graduate institutions are navigating a more complex enrollment environment while facing growing pressure to make confident decisions and support long-term student success. This session will explore how graduate education leaders can use clearer, more connected evidence to inform admissions and enrollment strategy, strengthen decision-making, and better align institutional practices with student and program outcomes.

Speakers: *TBD*

7:00 am – 7:45 am **CGS GPS Committee Meeting** — **Olympic III**

7:30 am - 9:00 am **NAGS Executive Committee Breakfast** — **Olympic I**

8:00 am - 12:00 pm **Exhibits Open** — **Platinum E-J**

9:00 am - 10:30 am **Plenary III** — **Platinum A-D**

From Reaction to Strategy: Leading Systemic Change

In times of disruption, leaders often default to reacting. Drawing on three decades of research, our keynote speaker will offer practical strategies for leading change proactively. Participants will learn to uncover overlooked levers for change within your institutional context and apply proven “leader moves.” Based on the practical experiences of hundreds of leaders in higher education, these moves can help graduate education leaders drive meaningful, lasting progress.

Chair: *E. Scott Adler, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School, University of Colorado Boulder*

Speaker: *Susan Elrod, Former Chancellor, Indiana University South Bend*

10:30 am - 11:00 am **Refreshment Break** — **Platinum E-J**

Sponsored by:
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Sacramento
Central Washington University
Chapman University
San Diego State University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, San Francisco

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Concurrent Sessions

Communicating and Improving ROI of Master's Degree Programs — Platinum A-D

With rising concern about affordability and career advancement, prospective students are demanding clear evidence of the value of a master's degree. This session explores how institutions can use outcomes data to assess return on investment, improve program design, strengthen graduate employability, and communicate value transparently to prospective students and policymakers.

Speakers: *Cindy Juntunen, Associate Provost, Research and Dean, Graduate Studies, California State University, Monterey Bay*
Sean Mullen, Associate Provost, Graduate Affairs, Boston University
Tiffany Zeigler, Dean, Dr. Billie Doris McAda Graduate School, Midwestern State University

Outcomes that Count: Collecting, Understanding, and Using Data — Plaza II-III

Graduate programs generate more student data than ever, but data alone doesn't drive improvement. This session offers practical strategies for collecting meaningful outcomes data, making sense of what it says, and translating those insights into decisions that strengthen graduate education. We will examine what to measure — including career outcomes, time-to-degree, completion, learning, and alumni outcomes — along with common pitfalls in interpretation and approaches for turning findings into action.

Speakers: *Terrence Deak, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School, State University of New York at Binghamton*
Rodney Priestley, Dean, Graduate School, Princeton University
Heather Trepal, Vice Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Dean, Graduate School, University of Texas at San Antonio

Leveraging Partnerships and Elevating Advocacy: Lessons Learned from a Graduate Student Experience Survey — Gold 1

CSGS organized session

This interactive session highlights the experience of designing, implementing, analyzing, and utilizing a *Graduate Student Experience Survey* with a focus on process and lessons learned that will be relevant for participants from all institutional types. Presenters will share tangible outcomes, such as developing a graduate peer success program, as well as strategies for leveraging economies of scale, building stakeholder support, and minimizing duplication.

Speakers: *Stephanie Bluth, Director, Graduate Student Success and Professional Development, George Mason University*
Julie Choe Kim, Director of Graduate Student Life, University Life, George Mason University
Kelly Schrum, Assistant Provost, Graduate Education, George Mason University

Friction and Resilience: Supporting International Enrollment in a Volatile Environment — Gold 4

Sponsored by Liaison International

International enrollment predictions are increasingly unstable with shifting labor markets, visa uncertainty, and geopolitics. Grounded in key macro-level international enrollment trends and first-person perspectives from international graduate students, this session will introduce a framework of five friction points for international applicants and build to a discussion of practical institutional responses for sustainable and responsible operations.

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
Aliyyah Nazeem, Client Success Manager, World Education Services
Nicole Stedman, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate School, University of Florida
Stephen Taylor, Research Director, Graduate Education, Liaison International

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm **Networking Luncheon** **Gold 2-3**

1:15 pm - 1:45 pm **Lightning Round Sessions**

Beyond Enrollment: Career Outcomes, Institutional Accountability, and the Master's Student Support Gap **Plaza I**

Sponsored by the Center for Graduate Success

New federal accountability measures focused on cost and outcomes are placing new pressure on master's programs. Yet master's students are rarely the primary audience for career resources — at career centers or in graduate schools. This session makes the case for why graduate schools must close this gap now and presents practical strategies for reaching master's students with limited staff and resources.

Speaker: *Maren Wood, Director and CEO, The Center for Graduate Career Success*

Technology-Assisted Holistic Review in Graduate Admissions: Scaling Consistently & Defensibly Without Losing the Committee's Voice **Gold 4**

Sponsored by Jacaranda Tech, Inc.

Application volumes keep climbing while scrutiny grows over how decisions get made. In this lightning session, Jacaranda Tech shares a UC San Francisco graduate admissions program pilot that used Applications Quest to automate applying a faculty-built rubric to admissions screening — how it was validated against committee decisions, where it diverged, and what deans should weigh before adopting technology in admissions.

Speakers: *Brent Ransom, Founder and CEO, Jacaranda Tech, Inc.*

What Do the Best-Performing Graduate Programs Do Differently in Their Marketing? **Gold 1**

Sponsored by Direct Development

This session will share patterns identified across graduate programs of varying sizes, types, and institutional contexts to reveal what high-performing programs consistently do in their marketing that their peers do not. We will examine how top programs position their unique value, how they structure their content and digital presence to attract better-fit students, and how academic leadership plays a direct role in the quality of that differentiation.

Speakers: *Tony Fraga, CEO, Direct Development*
Marcus Hanscom, Director of Enrollment Marketing, Direct Development

Intelligence for Preparing the Next Generation of Working Scientists: Data from Nature's 2026 Job Satisfaction Survey **Plaza II-III**

Sponsored by Nature Portfolio

This talk will cover US-based responses from Nature's *2026 Global Job Satisfaction Survey*, which asked nearly 4,000 post-PhD working scientists about job satisfaction factors such as supervision, professional development, work-life balance, workplace culture, the use of AI in science, and future career prospects. Understanding it will also cover how PhD graduates use AI in their work, which will help graduate programs prepare the next generation of scientists both mentally and technically for modern research careers.

Speaker: *Kendall Powell, Senior Editor, Nature Careers*

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm **Exhibits Open** **Platinum E-J**

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm **Plenary IV** **Platinum A-D**

From Vision to Impact: Public-Private Collaboration and the Next Era of Graduate Education – 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.

How can universities, industry, government, and communities work together to address society's most complex challenges? This plenary explores the strategic role of large-scale public-private partnerships in advancing graduate education, research, workforce development, and economic opportunity. Attendees will gain insights into the leadership and

institutional commitments needed to sustain collaborations, while considering how partnership-driven models can expand student opportunities, accelerate innovation, and generate lasting regional and societal impact.

Chair: *Michael Solomon, Dean, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan*

Speaker: *Gary May, Chancellor, University of California, Davis*

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm **Refreshment Break** **Platinum E-J**

Sponsored by:
Stonybrook University
The University of Northern Iowa
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Utah

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

New Models of University/Employer Partnerships — Platinum A-D

Graduate education relies more than ever on partnerships with stakeholders in the business, government, and non-profit sectors. This session 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: *David Daleke, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Health Sciences and Dean, Graduate School, Indiana University*
Christine Getz, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, University of Missouri, Kansas City
Sabrina Jedlicka, Deputy Provost for Graduate Education,Lehigh University

Building Research Environments Where Graduate Students Thrive — Plaza II-III

"Hidden curricula" and unclear expectations create barriers to doctoral student success. This session highlights institutional efforts to increase transparency around policies, milestones, and program expectations while strengthening mentoring, belonging, and student development. Drawing on lessons from universities participating in the CGS CLEAR project (Creating Learning Environments for Advancing Researchers), presenters will share strategies, challenges, and practical approaches that attendees can adapt to improve research environments at their own institutions.

Speakers: *Brian Gibney, Dean of Sciences, CUNY Graduate Center*
Markus Kemmelmeier, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Graduate School, University of Nevada, Reno
Annette Kluck, Dean, Graduate School, University of Mississippi

In House Graduate Recruitment Engine: Reduce Reliance on External Vendors by Optimizing Internal Expertise, Data and Technology — Gold I

WAGS organized session

Graduate programs increasingly rely on costly third-party vendors for lead generation, outreach, and funnel management, often duplicating work institutions can do better themselves. This session shows how universities can build a sustainable in-house recruitment engine using existing CRM capabilities, segmentation, and analytics. Examples include automated nurture campaigns, data-driven prospect prioritization, and real-time engagement dashboards. Attendees will leave with a framework for cutting external spend and strengthening institutional control.

Speaker: *Polixenia (Polly) Tohaneanu, Director of Graduate Admissions, University of Idaho*

Making Strategic Decisions in Graduate Education: Data-Informed Approaches to Program Review, Funding, and Outcomes — **Gold 4**

Sponsored by Academic Analytics

Graduate deans are increasingly asked to make decisions about program prioritization, funding, and long-term strategy with limited comparable data. This session highlights how institutions are strengthening program review, informing resource allocation, and incorporating outcomes perspectives to support clearer, evidence-based conversations with provosts and institutional leadership about program priorities, investment, and direction.

Speakers: *Lisa Tedesco, Senior Advisor, Academic Analytics*
Robin Poston, Dean, Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, and Associate Provost, Graduate Education
Rob Pearson, Director, Graduate Career Development and Postdoctoral Affairs, Southern Methodist University

5:15 pm - 6:00 pm **CGS Research and Information Services Committee Meeting** — **Olympic I**

5:15 pm - 6:00 pm **CGS Advancement Advisory Committee Meeting** — **Olympic III**

Saturday, December 5

7:00 am - 8:00 am **Fulbright Program Breakfast** — **Gold 2-3**

Breakfast open to all attendees

Fulbright Across the Academy: Award Opportunities and Application Best Practices for Dissertation and Post Doctoral Research, and Faculty Development

The Fulbright Program offers international fellowship and exchange opportunities for doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, faculty, and higher education leaders. This session will provide graduate deans and institutional representatives with an overview of award pathways, application best practices, and strategies for supporting competitive applicants. Participants will learn how Fulbright can advance graduate student success, faculty development, international partnerships, and institutional visibility on a global scale.

Speakers: *Chad Hoseth, Director, Academic Programs, Fulbright US Scholars Program, IIE*
Jen Murray, Assistant Director, Fulbright US Scholars Program, IIE
Lora Seery, Director, Fulbright US Scholars Program, IIE

8:00 am - 8:30 am **CGS Annual Business Meeting** — **Platinum A-D**

Presider: *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** — **Platinum A-D**

Accreditation at a Turning Point: Autonomy, Accountability, Control, and the Future of Higher Education

Accreditation is increasingly being used as a powerful policy tool to influence institutional behavior, governance, and academic priorities. In this timely plenary, Law Professor Jonathan Glater examines the legal and regulatory forces reshaping accreditation and its implications for colleges and universities. Drawing on his recent scholarship, he explores how federal and state actors can leverage accreditor authority, raising critical questions about institutional autonomy, academic freedom, and leadership in a rapidly changing landscape.

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

Speaker: *Jonathan Glater, Associate Dean and Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley School of Law*

10:00 am - 10:30 am **Morning Coffee** **Platinum Foyer**

10:30 am - 12:00 pm **Plenary VI** **Platinum A-D**

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

Winners: *Paula Brandt, CAGS Awardee, University of Calgary*
Negar Aghigh, CAGS Awardee, Polytechnique Montréal (PolyMTL)
David Crosby, WAGS Awardee, Colorado State University
Pamela Hernandez Delgado COMEPO Awardee, Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua
Natasha Khatwani, CSGS Awardee, University of Miami
Xchelha Martinez Montiel, COMEPO Awardee, Universidad Anahuac
Vidya Nadar, MAGS Awardee, Kansas State University
Samadhi Nawalage, CSGS Awardee, Mississippi State University
Eray Schulz, MAGS Awardee, Indiana University
Kristina Stallings, NAGS Awardee, University of Pennsylvania
Cindy Vargas, WAGS Awardee, Arizona State University
Hannah Wiswell, NAGS Awardee, Princeton University

12:00 pm **Meeting Closing** **Platinum A-D**