

Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Researcher Support Workshop

Welcome and Preview

Robert E. Barnhill

NSF/CGS Dean in Residence

U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century (2001)

- “The scale and nature of the ongoing revolution in science and technology, and what this implies for the quality of human capital in the 21st century, pose critical national security challenges for the United States. Second only to a weapon of mass destruction detonating in an American city, we can think of nothing more dangerous than a failure to manage properly science, technology, and education for the common good over the next quarter century.”

Advanced Education in Science and Engineering

- “Federal support for research and graduate and postdoctoral education should respond to the real economic needs of students and promote a wider range of educational options responsive to national skill needs.”
 - Recommendation by the National Science Board in: *The Science and Engineering Workforce: Realizing America’s Potential*, August 14, 2003.

Workshops on Graduate Education/Postdoctoral Training

- NSF, CGS, and NIH wish to expand the frontiers of knowledge and improve practice in STEM graduate education, in order to prepare better tomorrow's leaders in science and engineering.
- As a part of this effort, we are holding a series of workshops; this year's concerns student and postdoc financial support.

Purpose of Each Workshop

- To determine what we know
- To develop a research agenda
- To inform policy and practice in STEM graduate education
- To build a community of educators and researchers to maintain an ongoing dialogue in relevant areas

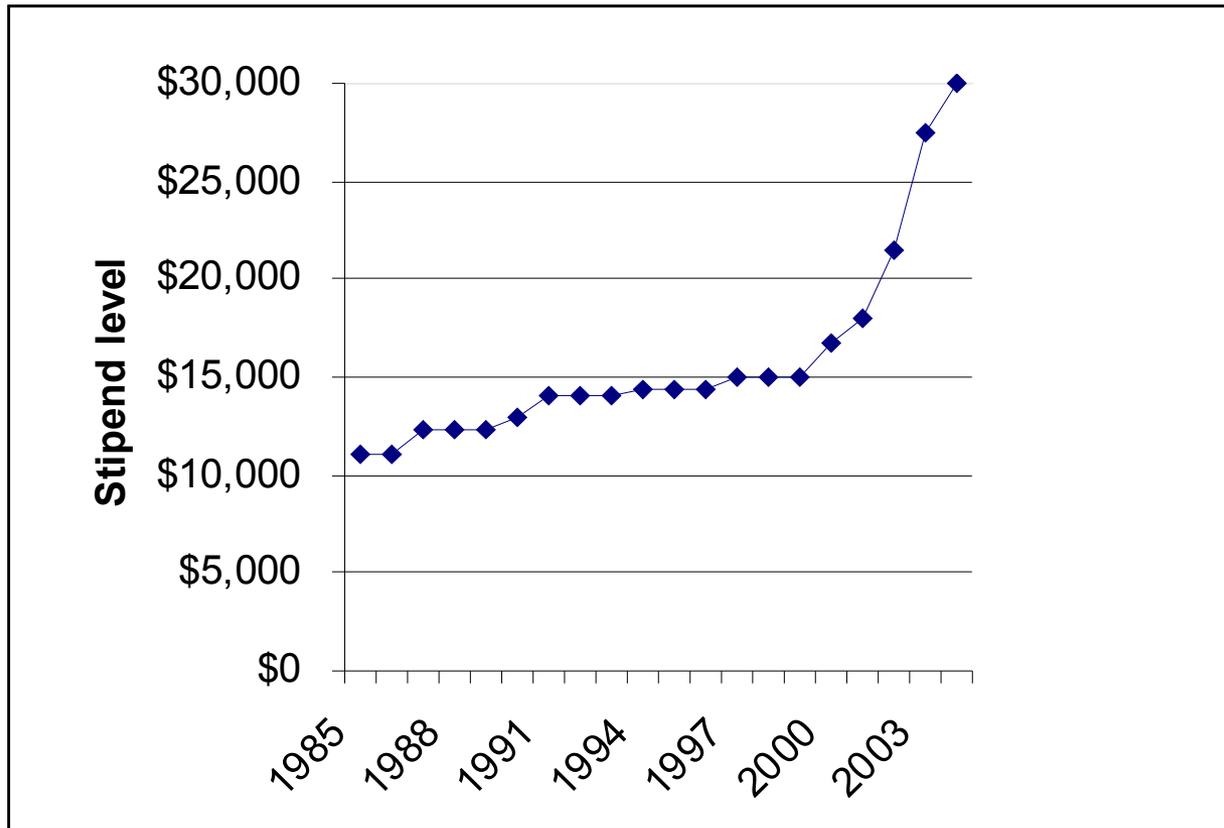
Theme for Support Workshop

- What role does student/postdoc financial support play in promoting the production of more and better prepared US citizens for STEM careers?
 - Increasing the supply, quality and diversity of the nation's STEM workforce

Motivational Forces for Workshop

- Recent substantial increase in graduate student stipends
- Impacts of these increases
- Policy for anticipated future increases

Growth in NSF Stipends since 1985



Support Workshop: Desired Outcomes

- Inform policymakers and recipients.
 - Help set agency policy/guidelines for compensation.
- Develop “best practices” for universities.
- Create a research-based policy for graduate student /postdoctoral researcher support.

Support Workshop Agenda

- Overall plan of Support Project
 - Quantitative: Data/information studies
 - Qualitative: Focus groups
- Cost of education
- Diversity
- National perspectives
- Breakout groups

Preview of Agenda – June 17th

- Research findings from the data; strategies
- Focus groups convened during past year.
 - Graduate students, CSSP, Postdocs, Graduate Deans, AAAS Fellows
- Minority presence in graduate education
- Open discussion of Day One topics
- Reception

Preview of Agenda – June 18th

- National perspectives, future research & policy
- Breakout groups: topics
 - Research topics on graduate/postdoc financial support
 - Policies for setting federal stipends
 - Best practices for universities
- Breakout group reports – plenary discussion
- Summary of findings/ where do we go from here?
- Adjournment of workshop – 12:30 p.m.