

Council of Scientific Society Presidents

Research Vice Presidents Subcommittee

“Graduate Student Support” Focus Group

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- visa CSSP recognizes that research in the American academy and across the nation is dependent upon the highest quality graduate and postdoctoral education.
 - CSSP will participate in any venues thought likely to advance the number and quality of U.S. graduate students completing science and mathematics degrees.
- CSSP hypothesizes that financial support is only one problem in STEM graduate education. CSSP intends to work with CGS on a systematic study of people who have obtained science degrees in an effort to better understand the challenges and opportunities that we face as we attempt to address this multifaceted issue. Factors in the study will include those listed below
 - Would the graduate repeat her/his career? Why/why not?
 - What does the graduate see as the factors that provided excellent preparation for their post-degree future, what factors were lacking?
 - What factors does the graduate see as creating optimism about their own career future, what factors engender pessimism?
 - What career path does the graduate student anticipate?
 - What opportunities does the graduate foresee in that career path? What roadblocks?
 - Would the graduate recommend the same career to friends? Why/why not?
 - Rank importance of various factors such as confidence in obtaining a long-term position, earnings vs. foregone earnings, benefits, family issues, and faculty role model opinions.
- CSSP hypothesizes that attractiveness of positions early in the professional career may be as important or more important than compensation during the period of graduate study and postdoctoral development.
- CSSP recognizes that any long term solution to the challenges facing graduate education at American universities must include robust and sustained efforts to ensure student development of creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills throughout the K-16 system.
 - CSSP anticipates the need to work with multiple partners to address this issue.
- CSSP believes that the partnership between science and entrepreneurship will continue to drive economic development and innovation in the national and global economy and the American research universities can and should play a lead role forging the leaders of this partnership.
 - CSSP will work with its member societies and universities to develop training opportunities which provide both entrepreneurial and science skills.
- CSSP recognizes the critical nature of foreign born graduate trainees to the future of international science as well as on the sustainability of the American research university.
 - CSSP will continue to work with all engaged parties to assure that the United States government understands all aspects of the complex issue surrounding visas and national security and to work to develop options such as embassy affiliated scientific fellows in the diplomatic corps to expedite processing.