



PRESS RELEASE

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Global Higher Education Leaders Agree to Graduate Education Principles

Banff, Alberta, CAN (September 6, 2007) – At the first-ever global meeting on graduate education, held here last weekend, higher education leaders from North America, Europe, and the Pacific Rim agreed to a Statement of Principles.

The principles are intended to serve as a general guide to international collaboration and collective work to advance and improve graduate education across multiple countries and regions.

The statement emerged from a conference designed to initiate a global dialogue on the opportunities and challenges created by the globalization of graduate education. The “Strategic Leaders Global Summit on Graduate Education” was jointly convened and hosted by the U.S.-based Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and the Government of Alberta, Canada.

The 27 participants included deans and rectors of graduate schools, embassy officials, government ministers and officials, and other scholars, representing the United States, Canada, Europe, China, and Australia.

“In reaching consensus on a set of shared values, the Banff Principles for guiding and strengthening the sharing of best practices in graduate education globally, the Summit far exceeded even my highest expectations,” said Debra W. Stewart, CGS President. “Leadership of the graduate education community in each participating country and region now has a firm basis for acting, locally and globally, in order to improve and advance the graduate education enterprise.”

Meeting sessions focused on opportunities to work collectively on best practices in both master’s and doctoral education, as well as on joint and dual degrees and other international collaborations. The conference also addressed challenges in graduate education, such as:

- The need for global dialogue
- Incorporating all stakeholders, such as employers and policymakers
- The flows of top international talent
- Graduate education as a regional and national economic driver

[more]

Council of Graduate Schools

One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 430 • Washington, DC 20036
(202) 223-3791 • www.cgsnet.org

The conference grew out of discussions begun a year ago at a transatlantic meeting in Salzburg, Austria between CGS and the European University Association (EUA). Delegates at that meeting agreed that in an environment of growing competition in graduate education, there was a need for increased international dialogue and co-operation.

A report based upon the proceedings will be released in December.

Note to Editors: This release, the Banff Principles, the summit program, and the list of participants are available online at www.cgsnet.org/Default.aspx?tabid=289.

Press contacts:

U.S.: **Council of Graduate Schools:** Stuart Heiser
sheiser@cgs.nche.edu / (202) 223-3791

Europe: **European University Association:** Andrew Miller
andrew.miller@eua.be / 0032 2 788 5319

Canada: **Canadian Association for Graduate Studies:** Fred Hall
fred.hall@ucalgary.ca

Government of Alberta: Dan Rizzoli
Dan.Rizzoli@gov.ab.ca

Australia: **Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies:** Robyn Owens
rowens@admin.uwa.edu.au

China: **The Association of Chinese Graduate Schools:** He Ke-bin
hekb@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn

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The Council of Graduate Schools (www.cgsnet.org) is an organization of over 480 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. CGS member institutions award more than 90% of the doctoral degrees and over 75% of the master's degrees in the U.S. The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.