

*Importance of Political Engagement
Internally and Externally*

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Why be politically engaged?

- Awareness of ...
- Advocacy for ...
- Knowledge and understanding of ...
- Communication about ...
- Giving voice to ...

...value and importance of graduate education...

Internal and external

- Both are important
- Should be complimentary with related “talking points”
- Messages and approaches vary depending upon audience and purpose
- Ongoing process – long term strategy
- Short term objectives

Example from Virginia

- Virginia Council of Graduate Schools (VCGS)
 - Shared goals
 - Common strategies
 - Different contributions
- State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV)
- Legislature and government connections
- Graduate Student Research Forum



Virginia Council of Graduate Schools

investing in graduate education is investing in Virginia!

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The Benefits of Graduate Education

Traditionally, the focus in Virginia higher education has been on undergraduate education. However, graduate education has long been—and is rapidly becoming even more of—an integral part of the overall mission of almost all of Virginia's colleges and universities. The Commonwealth's programs of graduate education are central to realizing Virginia's vision of becoming a first-tier state in the U.S. technology arena, as well as central to Virginia's goal of securing a worldwide place of leadership in the information age (*Graduate Education in Virginia*, VCGS, 1999). Consider the following [pdf]:

The Future of Virginia

- ◊ Professional and graduate programs attract and retain high-tech, research and development, health care, transportation, military and new-growth markets and companies.
- ◊ Virginia's graduate schools produce the next generation of leaders in academia, industry, and government.
- ◊ New discoveries, technologies, patents, and inventions developed through university-sponsored research and graduate programs contribute directly to Virginia's economic growth and reputation.
- ◊ In the 2004 presidential election, more than 80 percent of U.S. citizens with a master's degree or higher reported voting, compared to less than 60 percent of U.S. citizens with a high school diploma.
- ◊ Half the economic growth over the last half-century has been a result of technological innovation, scientific discovery, and knowledge creation (*NDEA 21: A Renewed Commitment to Graduate Education*, CGS, 2005).

Economic Benefits of a Skilled Workforce

- ◊ Average lifetime earnings for doctoral degree recipients are between 2.5 and 3 times higher than average lifetime earnings for high school graduates. Average lifetime earnings for professional degree recipients are even higher.
- ◊ Virginia graduate students contribute countless hours of community service worth millions of dollars through internships, practica, and volunteer work.
- ◊ A graduate degree is becoming increasingly necessary for Virginians to enter their fields of choice. For example, in teacher education and accounting, the entry-level degree has risen from the bachelor's to the master's degree.
- ◊ Approximately 70 percent of all in-state and out-of-state graduate students remain in Virginia after graduating, contributing to the Commonwealth's workforce and generating hundreds of millions of dollars in state taxes annually.

NEWS

[Graduate education and the changing face of America: Report urges national commitment to developing domestic talent](#) (Council of Graduate Schools • Apr. 23, 2009)

[Graduate student research highlighted at state event](#) (University of Virginia • Apr. 20, 2009)

[Longwood graduate students present research at statewide forum](#) (Longwood University • Feb. 12, 2009)

[Grad students make strong showing at research forum](#) (College of William & Mary • Feb. 11, 2009)

[Four ODU graduate students to present research at state research forum today](#) (Old Dominion University • Feb. 10, 2009)

[Radford University graduate students to present research at prestigious forum](#) (Radford University • Feb. 9, 2009)

[Graduate students will present their research](#) (Richmond Times-Dispatch • Feb. 7, 2009)

[VCGS to host Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum and Reception](#) (Virginia Commonwealth University • Feb. 6, 2009)

[Six JMU students to present at \[Fourth Annual\] Graduate Student Research Forum](#) (James Madison University • Feb. 5, 2009)

[MEDIA ADVISORY : VCGS to host Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum](#) (Virginia Council of Graduate Schools • Feb. 5, 2009)

[Virginia Tech's DePauw to serve as chair of CGS board](#) (Council of Graduate Schools • Dec. 10, 2008)

[Commonwealth of Virginia ranked "best state for business"](#) (Forbes • Jul. 31, 2008)

[Professional science master's degree programs should be expanded and could boost U.S. competitiveness, report says](#) (The National Academies • Jul. 11, 2008)

[Graduate education makes a difference: New \[CGS\] report details contribution to the public good](#) (Council of Graduate Schools • Apr. 24, 2008)

ORGANIZATIONS

[Conference of Southern Graduate Schools \(CSGS\)](#)

[Council of Graduate Schools \(CGS\)](#)

[Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools \(CHBGS\)](#)

[State Council of Higher Education for Virginia \(SCHEV\)](#)

[Virginia-North Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation](#)

REPORTS

[Broadening Participation in Graduate Education](#) (Council of Graduate Schools • April 2009)

[Science Professionals: Master's Education for a Competitive World](#) (National Research Council • July 2008)

[Graduate Education and the Public Good](#) (Council of Graduate Schools • April 2008)

[Graduate Education: The Backbone of American Competitiveness and Innovation](#) (Council of Graduate Schools • April 2007)

[NDEA 21: A Renewed Commitment to Graduate Education](#) (Council of Graduate Schools • November 2005)

[Graduate Education in Virginia: The Spark for Virginia's Knowledge-Based Economic Engine](#) (Virginia Council of Graduate Schools • September 1999)

VCGS Graduate Student Research Forum

- Purpose
- Audiences/invitees
- Research & scholarship foci
- Location & timing
- Annual event

Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum



Hosted by the
Virginia Council of Graduate Schools

February 10, 2009

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The Library of Virginia



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

February 10, 2009

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum sponsored by the Virginia Council of Graduate Schools (VCGS). Congratulations to the students presenting their research during the forum.

Graduate education is an essential component of the research agenda for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commonwealth relies heavily on the work and scholarship of our graduate students. They work closely with faculty to create new understandings and discoveries which are applied to the social and economic challenges facing society. They also contribute to the learning and engagement missions of our colleges and universities as they prepare for careers as scientists, teachers, leaders, artists, and professionals.

Higher education is one of the primary economic development drivers in the state. Last year, I signed a \$1.5 billion bond package, which included \$1.1 billion for our colleges and universities. These funds support research by providing modern facilities and equipment and represent the largest capital investment in higher education in the history of the Commonwealth.

I applaud the work of the Virginia Council of Graduate Schools to coordinate the forum and continue advocating for graduate education in the Commonwealth.

Investing in graduate education is investing in Virginia!

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kaine



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Thomas R. Morris
Secretary of Education

January 20, 2009

Welcome to the Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum! I am delighted the Virginia Council of Graduate Schools (VCGS) coordinated this event to provide a glimpse into the world of graduate research, and a better understanding of the impact graduate students have on the growth and sustainability of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Graduate students enrolled at Virginia's colleges and universities come from every state and more than 60 nations throughout the world. They provide valuable contributions to the teaching, research, and service missions of our institutions of higher education. Collectively, our universities contribute greatly to the advancement of knowledge, through graduate education, at the master's and doctoral levels.

Upon completion of their studies, graduate students become members of the skilled workforce addressing significant economic and social challenges, including health care, the environment, transportation, teaching, and homeland security. Beyond addressing the problems of tomorrow, our graduate students are a premier example of what continues to make Virginia a wonderful place to live and work.

Thank you for attending the forum. I hope you enjoy interacting with the outstanding graduate students from our public colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth. They represent today's research and scholarship and tomorrow's future.

Investing in graduate education is investing in Virginia!

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Morris
Secretary of Education
Commonwealth of Virginia

Letters from Governor and other Political leaders

Virginia Council of Graduate Schools
Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum

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Did you know that a Virginia graduate student ...

- Invented a mechanical leech that outperformed live medicinal leeches used for more than 3,000 years
- Won a Nobel Prize in physics for discovering how helium-3 can transform itself into a liquid that flows without friction at temperatures near absolute zero
- Currently serves as the secretary of health and human resources for the commonwealth of Virginia
- Invented novel supercapacitors with applications in renewable energy generation and electric vehicles
- Flew on the space shuttle Discovery and another served twice as the scientific astronaut with the space shuttle Columbia
- Developed a hearing aid that uses magnetic waves to transmit vibrations
- Served as the first U.S. Department of Agriculture's under secretary for food safety
- Served as director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the U.S. Department of Energy's largest science and energy laboratory
- Exhibited at a cutting-edge European art center in London with works symbolizing mysteries of Central Virginia, entitled "Madison's Cave" after a historic limestone cave in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains
- Designed a software application that runs on mobile devices that actively link doctors and patients
- Patented a process to improve manufacture of nanometer-scale silicon chips
- Discovered an unpublished poem by Sylvia Plath
- Reconstructs the development of forests using geographic information systems and analysis of tree rings, maps and other documentary evidence to show how people interact with forests and respond to environmental change

Find out what Virginia graduate students are doing
at the **Virginia Council of Graduate Schools**
Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum

Feb. 10, 2009 • 4-6 p.m.

The Library of Virginia
800 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

www.vacgs.net





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