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News Release

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Cornell University Receives ETS/CGS Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education

Washington, DC – Today the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and the Educational Testing Service (ETS) presented Cornell University with this year’s ETS/CGS Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education: From Admission through Completion. Dr. Barbara Knuth, senior vice provost and dean of the Graduate School, accepted the co-sponsored award on Cornell’s behalf during the 56th Annual Meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS).

The award recognizes promising, innovative proposals to enhance student success and degree completion at the master’s or doctoral levels while promoting inclusiveness. The winning institution is selected on the strength of its proposal to meet the award’s goals and to serve as a model for other schools. The winner receives a two-year, \$20,000 matching grant.

Through the project: *Innovative Inclusion Interventions (I3): Promoting Graduate Student Success through Advancements in the Climate of Graduate Education* Cornell University intends to promote graduate student success and a more inclusive climate through four innovative interventions supporting the academic and social engagement of graduate students across identities. These interventions include: a summer success symposium, an interactive theatre project, an intergroup dialogue project immersion program, and an inclusive teaching institute for graduate students and postdocs.

Knuth commented, “Our goal is to achieve a campus climate in which all graduate students feel valued and accepted by faculty and peers, and where incidents of bias are minimized. This recognition from ETS and CGS will help us to provide an environment in which all members of our graduate community understand and value the diverse identities, experiences, and perspectives present on our campus. I am honored to accept this award on behalf of my Graduate School colleagues and our partners across many offices at Cornell.”

“The practices showcased by this award competition greatly benefit the graduate education community, and we especially want to thank ETS, whose support makes possible this novel way to promote best practices among the graduate community.” said CGS President Suzanne T. Ortega.

“Pursuing and completing master’s or doctoral level study is challenging, and a program such as this that provides both academic and social engagement goes a long way to ensuring higher levels of student success,” said David G. Payne, Vice President and COO of ETS’s Higher Education Division. “ETS congratulates Cornell University for their innovative and inclusive approach.”

This year, the selection committee chose one institution to be named as Honorable Mention: North Carolina State University for a project titled *GradPath: A Graduate Student Success App*. Led by Maureen Grasso, dean of the Graduate School, this project's aim is to develop a mobile-friendly tool to give graduate students timely access to critical academic data and professional development information in real time.

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About ETS

At ETS, we advance quality and equity in education for people worldwide by creating assessments based on rigorous research. ETS serves individuals, educational institutions and government agencies by providing customized solutions for teacher certification, English language learning, and elementary, secondary and post-secondary education, as well as conducting education research, analysis and policy studies. Founded as a nonprofit in 1947, ETS develops, administers and scores more than 50 million tests annually — including the *TOEFL*® and *TOEIC*® tests, the *GRE*® tests and *The Praxis Series*™ assessments — in more than 180 countries, at over 9,000 locations worldwide. www.ets.org

About CGS

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of approximately 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. 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.