

News Release

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

Washington, DC – Today the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and Educational Testing Service (ETS) presented Wayne State University (WSU) with the 2019 ETS/CGS Award for *Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education: From Admission through Completion*. Dr. Ingrid Guerra-Lopez, dean of the Graduate School, accepted the co-sponsored award on Wayne State's behalf during the award ceremony at CGS's 59th Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN.

The ETS/CGS Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education recognizes promising, innovative proposals to enhance student success and degree completion at the master's and 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.

Wayne State University's program, "Success for Underrepresented students in Graduate Education (SURGE)," is an innovative, multi-faceted approach to increase inclusiveness and to build a steady pipeline of underrepresented students prepared for master's programs. In partnership with WSU student support services and current graduate students, SURGE combines intensive peer mentoring, inclusive mentoring and leadership training, and scholarship funding to provide students with the support they need to be competitive applicants to a WSU master's program.

"We are honored and grateful to be the recipient of this important award from ETS/CGS. SURGE embodies Wayne State University's commitment to prepare a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impact local and global communities. This initiative is designed to address common challenges faced by students from underrepresented backgrounds," said Ingrid Guerra-Lopez, dean of the Graduate School. "SURGE will strengthen students' support network, promoting a sense of belonging, a growth mindset, and specific skills that will prime them to be competitive applicants to WSU graduate programs."

"We are grateful to ETS, whose support makes possible this innovative way to promote best practices among graduate schools, said CGS President Suzanne T. Ortega. "The program Wayne State has developed addresses some of the most common barriers to graduate school that underrepresented students face, mitigating cost burdens, addressing feelings of isolation, and providing a network of mentors experienced with the graduate application process."

"Wayne State University is being recognized for the university's approach to addressing diversity and inclusion in graduate education by investing in support for underrepresented students as they navigate the graduate application process." said David G. Payne, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of [ETS' Global Education Division](#). "Their program

focuses on building a pipeline through mentorship, scholarship and leadership training – all critical pieces to ensuring an accessible, inclusive and diverse graduate program.”

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.

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