

2021 Joint CSGS and CHBGS Virtual Conference  
Theme: The Future of Graduate Education  
Tuesday, Feb. 23 – Friday, Feb. 26

Schedule (All times are Eastern Standard Time)

Tuesday, 2/16 1:00 EST Pre-meeting forum: What Next for Graduate Education?

Chair: Dr. Karen S. Coats, The University of Southern Mississippi, CSGS President-elect

Speaker: Dr. Suzanne Ortega, President, Council of Graduate Schools

Description: Racial injustice, threats to the American democratic experiment, and global pandemic call for new modes of scholarship, science, and leadership. How will graduate education respond to this challenge? In this talk, learn how CGS projects are helping us to think about the changes we must make now to create a healthier world for all.

Monday, 2/22 Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools program begins

2:00 – 3:00 EST General Membership Meeting

Agenda:

Approval of Minutes

Treasurer's report – Dr. Mark Garrison, Dean of Graduate Studies, Morgan State University

Audit committee report – Dr. Ernest Brothers Associate Dean of the Graduate School, University of Tennessee Knoxville and Dr. Mary Owens-Southall, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Coppin State University

Old business

New business

Remarks by Dr. Mary Owens-Southall, CHGBS President

Adjournment

Tuesday, 2/23

8:45 – 9:30 ETS Coffee Chat with ETS

Speakers: Anuja Gaikwad and John Augusto, ETS

9:45 – 10:00 ETS Presidential Welcome

Dr. Mary Owens-Southall, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Coppin State University

10:00 – 11:00 ETS Keynote address: Impact of COVID-19 Coronavirus on HBCU Graduate Programs

Speaker: Dr. Anthony Jenkins, President, Coppin State University

11:00 – 12:00 ETS Panel Session: The Impact of COVID-19 on HBCU Graduate Schools

Moderator: Dr. David Jackson, Associate Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate College, Florida A&M University

12:00 – 12:30 ETS Breakout Room

1:00 – 2:00 ETS Welcome from the Council of Graduate Schools

Speaker: Dr. Suzanne Ortega, President, Council of Graduate Schools

2:15 – 3:15 ETS Panel Session: Graduate Faculty Responses to COVID-19  
Moderator: Dr. Reginald Ellis, Assistant Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, Florida A&M University

3:15 – 3:45 ETS Breakout Room

3:45 – 4:45 ETS Panel Session: How are Graduate Schools Coping with COVID-19?  
Moderator: Dr. Ernest Brothers, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, University of Tennessee Knoxville

4:45 – 5:15 ETS Breakout Room

Wednesday, 2/24 Conference of Southern Graduate Schools program begins

8:30 – 9:00 EST Welcome, introduction, and session chair: Dr. Jack DeRochi, Winthrop University, CSGS President

9:00 – 9:50 EST Plenary 1: Change and Reinvention in Graduate STEM Education  
Speaker: Dr. Nirmala Kannankutty, Senior Advisor to the Director, National Science Foundation  
Description: There are two compelling observations of U.S. graduate education: (1) the enterprise trains exceptionally well-qualified researchers and practitioners; many programs in the U.S. are considered the international gold-standard for their disciplines; and (2) the future vitality of the enterprise depends on its ability to adapt graduate training to better meet the changing needs of the disciplines and employers. In this discussion, the speaker will propose that institutional change and educational improvement, improving learning environments, and informed decision-making are three mechanisms that could be used to align to future goals and focus for graduate education.

9:50 – 10:00 EST Break

10:00 – 10:50 EST Breakout session 1

1) Q&A with Dr. Kannankutty (Chair: Dr. Jack DeRochi)

2) Professional development for graduate students: Developing Your Brand  
Speaker: Dr. Melissa Moore, Chairperson, Department of Marketing, College of Business, Mississippi State University (Chair: Dr. Karen S. Coats)

Description: The impression one makes in the minds of potential employers, collaborators, and colleagues is important to personal and professional success. In this session, Dr. Moore will discuss the value of a personal “brand,” and show graduate students how to develop a brand that will help them achieve success in today’s competitive workforce.

3) Future of graduate admissions panel discussion

Speakers:

Dr. Sharon James McGee, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, East Tennessee State University

Dr. Troy Terry, Executive Director of Graduate Studies and Evening Studies, Furman University

Dr. Ron Walcott, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School, University of Georgia

Dr. Irene Pittman Aiken, Dean of the Graduate School, University of North Carolina Pembroke

Description: In this session, the presenters will discuss some of the emerging issues related to graduate admissions such as rolling deadlines, 7-week academic sessions, quick application decisions, and the “Amazon” experience that applicants’ desire. We will explore how these issues rub up against the need to balance access and flexibility with “rigor” and “standards.” There will be time for participant discussion.

10:50 – 11:00 EST Break

11:00 – noon EST 3MT heats 1 and 2 (Moderator: Dr. Ruth Bahr, University of South Florida)

Noon – 1:00 EST Tabletop Topics brown bag

1) Graduate Student Mental Health and Well-being during COVID-19 (Facilitator: Dr. Peter Harries, North Carolina State University)

2) Identifying Funding Opportunities for Graduate Students (Facilitator: Dr. Andrea Golato, Texas State University)

3) Graduate Policies Impacting Social Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion (Facilitator: Dr. Jon Hakkila, College of Charleston)

4:00 – 5:00 EST Executive council meeting

Thursday, 2/25

Noon – 12:10 EST Welcome: President Jack DeRochi

12:10 – 12:50 EST Tabletop Topics Brown Bag

1) Bill Carr New Deans and Associate Deans Workshop (Facilitators: Dr. Michael Cunningham, Tulane University, and Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser, University of Louisiana at Lafayette)

Description: This session invites you to join two experienced graduate deans for a candid discussion about setting expectations and finding support when you are new to a leadership position in graduate education. The session will be hosted as a roundtable focused on topics including listening and learning in the first year, staff management, relationship building, setting realistic expectations, and helpful resources.

2) Positive Changes in Graduate Education Emerging from the Pandemic (Facilitator: Dr. Jack DeRochi)

3) Grading Policies during COVID-19 and the Application Going Forward  
(Facilitator: Dr. Lori McMahon, University of Alabama at Birmingham)

1:00 – 1:50 EST

Breakout session 2

1) Professional Development for Graduate Students: Thinking Ahead: Dynamic Approaches to Experiential Professional Development (Chair: Dr. Lisa Sperling, University of Georgia)

Speakers: Dr. Andrew Crain, Director, and Ms. Amy Yandell, graduate assistant, Office of Experiential Professional Development, University of Georgia

Description: In this presentation, speakers from the University of Georgia Graduate School's Office of Experiential Professional Development (xPD) will highlight several strategies for building your resumé and gaining hands-on experience as a graduate student. Here we will outline the benefits of experiential professional development as well as common challenges and the resources that graduate students may consider to expand their professional development horizons. The program will include a formal presentation from xPD staff members as well as student presenters from the xPD Student Advisory Board, followed by a discussion.

2) From the Graduate School to Industry: Developing High Impact Corporate Partnerships (Chair: Dr. Peter Harries)

Speaker: Dr. Laura Demarse, Assistant Dean for Professional Development and External Relations, The Graduate School, North Carolina State University

Description: This presentation will provide an overview and road map for how the Graduate School at NC State created sustainable high impact corporate partnerships that support professional development. A review of corporate engagement programs will be reviewed along with methods for cultivating and engaging industry leaders.

1:50 – 2:00 EST

Break

2:00 – 2:50 EST

Plenary 2: "Humanities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Innovation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution"

Speaker: Dr. Mary A. Papazian, President, San José State University (Introduced by Dr. Karen S. Coats)

Description: The study of humanities in higher education is under attack—from employers and pundits, policy makers and others. Yet, a closer examination of the evolving job market and the skills that derive from the liberal arts reveals the vital role a liberal arts education plays in preparing the next generation of leaders for success in the emerging innovation economy. The speaker will reflect on the opportunities, value, and importance of humanities in a fast-changing world that more than ever needs the human skills of empathy, leadership, and tolerance, as well as the so-called "soft skills" of communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.

2:50 – 3:00 EST

Break

3:00 – 4:00 EST 3MT heats 3 and 4 (Moderator: Dr. Lori McMahon)

Friday, 2/26

8:45 – 9:00 EST Welcome and introductions: Dr. Jack DeRochi

9:00 – 10:15 EST Plenary 3: Federal Guidance – Focusing on the Future  
Speaker: Mackenzie Wilfong, General Counsel, Tulsa Community College  
Description: This presentation will look to the future and address what can be anticipated from new leadership within the new federal administration from the Departments of Education, Labor, and Homeland Security. This discussion will include analysis of anticipated significant policy changes, regulatory revisions, financial aid modifications, COVID response support, international visas, amongst a host of other timely legal issues that directly impact graduate education.

10:15 – 10:30 EST Break

10:30 – 11:30 EST 3MT Finals (Moderator: Dr. Jack DeRochi)

11:30 – 11:45 EST Break

11:45 – 1:15 EST Awards ceremony sponsored by ProQuest and business meeting

11:45 – 12:15 EST Presentation by ProQuest

12:15 – 12:45 EST Presentation of Faculty and Student Awards:  
Outstanding Mentor Award  
Outstanding Contributions Award  
Master's Thesis Award

12:45 – 1:15 EST Business meeting