



Conference of Southern Graduate Schools

2024 Annual Meeting – Highlights and Resources

The 2024 meeting was held last month in Greenville, South Carolina. The theme—Navigating the Falls: Reflection, Resilience, and Reinvention in Graduate Education—was strong and captured well much of the feelings and needs of graduate education leaders in our region.

Our very own **Nancy Biggio** (UNO) co-hosted the New Deans+ Breakfast and I am sure that she would be willing to share insights and resources for those in our state new to grad education. **Sanjay Menon** (LSUS) served on the CSGS Executive Committee and helped in a number of ways to ensure the conference was a success. Thank you, Nancy and Sanjay! Thank you also to our other members who were able to attend.

While there are some presentation materials available from the annual meeting on the CSGS website at <https://www.csgs.org/past-conference-programs>, here are some key notes and resources not there that I'd like to share with the LA CGS:

Grad Dean AI Assistant: Wes Fondren from Coastal Carolina University did a great plenary on AI and Graduate Education. As part of that presentation, he created a special “Grad Dean Assistant” on ChatGPT 4 for CSGS. While it requires the paid version of ChatGPT, here is the QR if you'd like to access it or you can also use this link [Graduate Dean Assistant](#). It's pretty cool.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Dr. Jay Marr, SACSCOC VP, during the plenary entitled, “Affirmative Action in Southern Universities and Graduate Education: The Meaning, Impact, and Opportunities Related to the Supreme Court Rulings during Times of Uncertainty and an Unfolding Political Climate,” reminded us that SACSCOC has a [position statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion](#) (updated in December 2023) that encourages institutions “to continue to regularly engage in thoughtful discussions about diversity, to intentionally cultivate and sustain inclusive and equitable processes, and to implement strategies to create and maintain respectful and supportive learning environments in which to learn and work.” Additionally, he noted that Standard 8.1 (Student achievement) expects institutions to disaggregate graduation

rate data by gender, ethnic, socioeconomic, and/or other student population characteristics in order to implement strategies for improvement.

2025 Annual Meeting – Save the Date

The 2025 meeting will be in **Dallas in March on the campus of Southern Methodist University**.

Presently, it is set to be held March 12-14, 2025 (with the annual CHBGS meeting taking place on March 11-12, 2025) during SMU's spring break. We just learned, however, that SMU has changed its spring break from this week to the following week. We are presently working to determine whether the hotels will allow us to move our contracts to March 18-21. So, for now, please hold both weeks on your calendars. More to come!

CSGS Membership

If you are not yet a member of CSGS, I encourage you to consider joining.

It is affordable, and the community is welcoming and ready to support your graduate education leadership on and beyond your campus. Below are the rates, and you can join (or rejoin) at <https://www.csgs.org/becoming-a-member-1>.

The CSGS annual institutional membership rate varies by graduate student population:

- Up to 999 graduate students: \$150 per year
- 1,000 to 3,999 graduate students: \$200 per year
- More than 4,000 graduate students: \$250 per year



A Focus on Master's Education: News from CGS (CSGS Presentation)

At the annual CSGS meeting, the President of CGS, Dr. Suzanne Ortega, not only shared the key findings of the [CGS Microcredentials and the Master's Degree](#) report (this report is available online) but also

introduced the [Master's Degrees At Work webpage](#) and some initial findings from this CGS initiative. Here full CSGS presentation slide deck is available online at <https://www.csgs.org/past-conference-programs>. These CGS resources and projects have a lot of helpful materials for communicating the value of master's education. Make sure to find time to review them.

Upcoming Workshops and Meetings:

Workshop: NSF's New Mentoring Requirements for Graduate Students

April 23rd, 2024 at 2:00-3:30pm ET

Register for the link at <https://cgsnet.org/webinar/workshop-nsfs-new-mentoring-requirements-for-graduate-students>

Learn more about NSF's new graduate student mentoring requirements for grants submitted on or after May 22, 2024 and learn how a panel of graduate deans and a Vice President for Research are preparing PIs and prospective PIs on their campuses to meet them. The workshop will feature presentations from NSF leadership, graduate deans and senior research administrators and will allow ample time for questions about the new requirements and the resources currently available to help PIs become more effective mentors.

Summer Workshop and New Deans Institute

The New Deans Institute is set for July 13, 2024, and is open to all but is tailored to those who have been in their graduate dean role for two years or less. The Summer Workshop will be July 14-17, 2024. Both will be in Boston, and the preliminary program and registration link are available at <https://cgsnet.org/event/2024-summer-workshop-and-new-deans-institute-registration>.

CGS Advocacy Day

I will be traveling next week to DC to participate in the 2024 CGS Advocacy Day and after that the CGS Board of Directors meeting. This will be my first time participating in Advocacy Day, which engages this group of grad deans and grad students with federal agency officials, Members of Congress, and the national media to discuss issues impacting U.S. graduate education. I'll look forward to reporting back when we meet in the Fall.