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Press Statement

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Council of Graduate Schools Supports Maintaining U.S. Global Competitiveness in Research and Innovation

America is at a critical juncture in terms of maintaining its leadership role in science and in the research innovation that drives economic development. Support for scientific research is critical to maintaining our pre-eminent role and now is the time to launch a new initiative to re-invigorate our research agenda and make a major investment in human capital.

The Knowledge Economy: Is the United States Losing Its Competitive Edge concludes that while the U.S. still leads the world in research and discovery, our advantage is eroding rapidly as other countries commit significant resources to enhance their own innovative capabilities. We support recommendations to significantly increase research budgets for agencies that support research in science and engineering.

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is especially supportive of recommendations made by the Council on Competitiveness to increase support for graduate education and specifically to expand university-based Professional Masters and traineeships at American universities.

According to CGS President, Debra Stewart, "Graduate education and American competitiveness are closely linked. Many of our scientists are products of the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) of 1958. A new NDEA for the 21st Century is needed to make the investments in our future workforce to continue American's leadership role in science and research innovation."

CGS applauds the work the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation and stands ready to work this organization and others on developing a major new NDEA for the 21st Century.

About CGS

The Council of Graduate Schools is an organization of institutions of higher education in the United States, Canada and across the globe engaged in graduate education, research, scholarship, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education. CGS accomplishes its mission through advocacy in the federal policy arena, innovative research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.

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