



One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 430 • Washington, DC 20036-1173
Telephone (202) 223-3791 • Fax (202) 331-7157 • www.cgsnet.org

December 14, 2005

The Honorable John Ensign
356 Russell SOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ensign:

I am writing to commend you for supporting U.S. competitiveness, innovation, and research and development through the introduction of the National Innovation Act. The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and its 450 plus member institutions are very grateful for your leadership in addressing the important issue of strengthening American competitiveness and for your recognition of the role of graduate education in this process.

We are especially supportive of the National Innovation Act's provisions related to science and technology talent and the strong emphasis on graduate education contained in Sections 201, 202, 203 and 402 of the bill. We are specifically supportive of the following provisions:

- Increased funding for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program;
- Authorization of funds for new and existing Professional Science Master's Degree programs to increase the number of qualified scientists and engineers entering the workforce and;
- Authorization of a competitive traineeship program for undergraduate and graduate students in defense science and engineering focusing on multidisciplinary learning and innovation-oriented studies, and extension of the SMART program supporting additional participants pursuing doctoral and master's degrees in key fields.

Supporting graduate education is critical to achieving the highly skilled workforce needed for the U.S. to compete effectively in the 21st century global economy. Thank you for your leadership in on this important policy matter. The Council of Graduate Schools looks forward to working with you to implement this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Debra W. Stewart

AFFILIATES

Conference
of Southern
Graduate Schools

Northeastern
Association
of Graduate Schools

Midwestern
Association
of Graduate Schools

Western
Association
of Graduate Schools