



# Council of Graduate Schools

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 13, 2006

**Contact:** Stuart Heiser  
(202) 223-3791 / [sheiser@cgs.nche.edu](mailto:sheiser@cgs.nche.edu)

### **Council of Graduate Schools Applauds California State University's Plans to Launch Professional Science Master's Programs**

California State University has become the largest statewide higher education system to launch Professional Science Master's (PSM) degree programs on multiple campuses. The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) coordinates the national initiative to expand the number of PSM programs and make the degree a regular feature of graduate education.

"CGS welcomes this statewide initiative as part of our overall effort to make the Professional Science Master's degree a part of our national competitiveness strategy in the U.S.," said Debra W. Stewart, CGS President.

"The adoption of the PSM degree by the nation's largest university system will give a huge boost to the reputation and awareness of an innovative graduate program specifically designed to respond to workforce needs. PSM programs produce graduates well-trained in science as well as in work skills highly valued by employers," Dr. Stewart added.

The PSM has received substantial interest nationally due to the positive effect it has on regional economies. Proposed federal legislation—the National Competitiveness Investment Act—would provide \$10 million to establish or improve PSM programs as an important component in building the nation's innovation infrastructure.

"These federal funds are critical to providing needed seed money to higher education systems and universities to assist them in establishing PSM programs," said Carol B. Lynch, Director of the PSM Initiative at CGS.

Since the first PSM programs were launched in 1997, over 100 PSM programs at more than 50 universities have been established. The PSM degree prepares students for science careers in business, industry and non-profit organizations, and combines rigorous education in science or mathematics with coursework in business skills such as communication and project management.

California State University (CSU) has received a \$891,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to launch 16 new PSM programs, in a variety of fields, on 12 of its 23 campuses in the next three years. CSU anticipates producing more than 1,100 PSM graduates in the programs' first five years.

"This is a major step forward for our initiative to promote and expand the PSM degree," added Dr. Lynch. "CSU is the ideal system to make this happen, as several of its campuses have already launched successful programs."

###

*The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of 475 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. CGS member institutions award more than 90% of the doctoral degrees and over 75% of the master's degrees in the U.S. 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.*

**Council of Graduate Schools**

One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 430 • Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 223-3791 • [www.cgsnct.org](http://www.cgsnct.org)