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News Release

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University of California, Davis Wins ETS/CGS Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education

Pilot project to focus on critical transitions in doctoral education

San Francisco, CA (December 3, 2009) – The inaugural “ETS/CGS Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education: From Admission through Completion” was presented here today to the University of California, Davis. The award is sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and Educational Testing Service (ETS). Dr. Jeffery C. Gibeling, Dean of Graduate Studies, accepted the award on behalf of UC Davis.

The new annual award was created to recognize promising, innovative proposals to enhance student success and degree completion at the master’s or doctoral level, while promoting inclusiveness. The winning institution is selected based on the strength of its proposal to meet the award’s goals and to serve as a model for other schools; it receives a two-year, \$20,000 matching grant.

The winning proposal from UC Davis, “Mentoring at Critical Transitions: Faculty Readiness from Admission to Completion,” will develop a pilot program to enhance faculty preparedness in areas affecting the academic socialization and success of a diverse doctoral student population. The project will focus on the transitions from application to student, coursework to research, and research to professional career. Through it the university will offer seminars, dialogues, and a retreat to enhance graduate faculty’s readiness to mentor doctoral students at these critical transitions.

“We are pleased to collaborate with the Council of Graduate Schools on this important effort,” said ETS Vice President and COO for College and Graduate Programs David G. Payne. “We congratulate UC Davis and are proud to be able to support programs that advance students’ success and institutional effectiveness.”

“The ETS/CGS Award was created to recognize the importance of supporting graduate school efforts to link innovative admissions practices with other institutional efforts that both promise to improve student success and achieve an inclusive graduate community,” said Debra W. Stewart, CGS President. “We were delighted by the outstanding quality of this year’s submissions, and congratulate the University of California, Davis for emerging from a highly competitive pool as the award’s first recipient.”

About ETS

The nonprofit ETS advances quality and equity in education for people worldwide by creating assessments based on rigorous research. ETS serves individuals, educational institutions and government agencies by providing customized solutions for teacher certification, English-language learning, and elementary, secondary and post-secondary education, as well as conducting education research, analysis and policy studies. Founded in 1947, ETS develops, administers and scores more than 50 million tests annually — including the GRE[®], TOEFL[®] and TOEIC[®] tests and *The Praxis Series*[™] assessments — in more than 180 countries, at over 9,000 locations worldwide. **www.ets.org**

About CGS

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. Among U.S. institutions, CGS members award 95% of the doctoral degrees and 78% of the master's degrees.* 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. **www.cgsnet.org**

* Based on data from the 2008 *CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees*