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April 6, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
H-228 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

On behalf of the 460 members of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I urge you to increase funding for the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) in the House FY07 Budget Resolution.

The ACI is a critical effort to strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness by expanding the investment in basic research undertaken at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy – Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Basic research has led to numerous innovations and scientific breakthroughs, which are vital to maintaining U.S. technological pre-eminence in an increasingly global economy.

We ask that you support funding for General Science, Space, and Technology (Function 250) at the level included in the President's FY2007 request, which is \$300 million more than the version approved by the House Budget Committee.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Debra W. Stewart
President

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 450 institutions of higher education engaged in graduate education, research and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. CGS member institutions award 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.