



Report on PSM Activities December 2006

The last quarter of 2006 continued to be very busy for the CGS PSM team, who were engaged in numerous activities to promote the PSM.

Meetings and Presentations

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education - Carol Lynch, Anderson Smith (Georgia Institute of Technology), and Phil Tuchinsky (Ford Motor Company and a member of the CGS PSM National Advisory Board) made presentations. Carol provided an overview of the PSM including the goals of the CGS initiative. Andy Smith covered the specifics of the PSM programs at Georgia Tech, including the important connection of these programs to local and regional industries (as part of a larger mission/strategic plan at the university). Phil Tuchinsky discussed why PSM graduates are so valuable to employers, and talked about his experience as an advisor to the PSM in Industrial Mathematics at Michigan State as well as his work in getting a new program started at the University of Michigan.

Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology Annual Meeting – Helen Frasier delivered the keynote address on *The Role of the Professional Science Master's (PSM) Degree in Meeting STEM Workforce Needs*. She provided an overview of the PSM program, discussed CGS involvement with the PSM initiative, and presented some new data on enrollment and degrees in these programs. While some in the audience were aware of the PSM program, others were not. The presentation was well received.

National Academies of Sciences Leadership Summit to Effect Change in Teaching and Learning - Paul Tate conducted a session on the PSM. Scientists, deans, and business leaders were all represented at the session, and were enthusiastic about the possibilities of the PSM for their respective disciplines. CGS flyers, contact information, and handouts were distributed, and all aspects of PSM implementation were discussed, with the challenge of faculty buy-in perhaps drawing the most attention.

Illinois Association of Graduate Schools Annual Meeting - Carol Lynch made a presentation on the PSM, and led a discussion. Such regional presentations are also an opportunity to mention the place of PSM and support of graduate education in general that appears in federal legislation and urge the attendees to contact their senators to encourage their support.

Engaging Universities

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale – Carol Lynch served as a resource and led a discussion on the PSM to a group of faculty and administrations. Planning is underway at the institution to develop a PSM in biofuels. CGS will continue to follow-up on the proposed PSM. The dean from SIU at Edwardsville, who has recently launched a PSM, participated and plans to collaborate in the development in the new program.

University of Colorado at Boulder – Carol Lynch met with representatives from the Institute for Cognitive Science who are planning a PSM in Human-Computer Interaction. Additional follow up was done in December.

University of Illinois System and UIUC – Carol Lynch, Sheila Tobias and Richard Wheeler, Dean at UIUC met with representatives of the UI system office to discuss the possibility of a system-wide initiative on the PSM. Following this, Carol and Sheila gave a presentation on the PSM to a group of interested faculty, and met with the Chancellor of U of Illinois, and the Provost and Associate Provost, all of whom were enthusiastic about the potential of establishing PSM program on their campus. Dick Wheeler arranged a number of informal sessions with faculty, which led to productive and informative discussions.

General system initiatives - Carol Lynch is continuing to work with several deans and representatives of the Chancellor in the SUNY system as they develop a proposal for submission to the Sloan Foundation to develop PSM programs in their institutions. Following the announcement of Sloan funding, CGS has been involved in extensive support activities for the CSU initiative (e.g. web-site development, promotional materials, assisting with and tracking press coverage).

Federal/Agency/Media Relations and Policy Initiatives

Patty McAllister continues to work with the Congress to advocate for the PSM as part of the national competitiveness initiative. McAllister, Babco and Frasier met with staff from Senator Harkin's office and provided information on the PSM. The Senator is very interested in the PSM and is aware of the 5 PSM programs at the University of Northern Iowa.

The CGS team has developed a PSM promotional brochure to be used for student recruitment. It has already been distributed to all PSM directors as well as utilized at a number of recruitment fairs organized by the CGS team.

Ongoing activities

Data collection - Another request to all PSM deans to obtain 2005 enrollment and graduation data in the format of the GED was sent. The PSM team is working on a way to regularize the annual collection of these data. An e-mail survey was sent to PSM directors to ascertain the status of their PSM programs. Nearly 100% response was obtained with help with effort from the entire CGS PSM team. We are working on a web-based data collection tool to use to survey graduating PSM students.

Communication - the CGS team uses the PSM list-serve to provide regular detailed updates of PSM activities to all programs, and to solicit feedback. PSM directors use it to report on common activities, including joint recruitment activities. The PSM team continues to collaborate with Heather Grinager from the National Council of State Legislatures, and Jennifer Bond from the Council on Competitiveness.

Promotion Efforts

“Service Science” - CGS is continuing its discussion on the relationship between PSM and the IBM Service Science initiative. A paper was prepared, submitted, and accepted for a major conference on service science sponsored by IBM on October 5-7, 2006. Debra Stewart presented at a plenary session at the conference detailing the role of graduate education in the development of innovative advancements on major issues. Specifically, she provided background on the PSM and noted how this degree could serve as a model for the bringing service science to curricular reality. She elaborated on the work CGS is doing to bring about the institutionalization of the PSM as a regular feature of U.S. graduate education.

Future Activities

The CGS PSM team has organized a pre-meeting workshop for the CGS Annual meeting. The workshop *Establishing and Sustaining Professional Master's Programs* will include some background and overview information on CGS's PSM initiatives and highlight best practices associated with planning, implementing, and sustaining professional master's programs. Issues that will be addressed are institutional financing, development of practical skills or “plus” curriculum, links to employers through individual program

advisory boards and student internships, data collection to assess demand, enrollments and career outcomes, recruitment of students and marketing programs and graduates to business, government and non-profit organizations. Three PSM directors – Saeed Foroudestan (Middle Tennessee State University), Shirley Kovacs (California State University, Fresno) and James Henkel (University of Connecticut) will address various aspects of these issues, while Carol Lynch will present the overview information and Eleanor Babco will address the data collection effort.

On the morning before the workshop, the CGS/PSM advisory board will meet. Concurrently, PSM program directors, primarily from the CGS/Sloan “master’s focused” initiative, will meet to share ideas on the development of their programs, and to work with Patty McAllister on government relations, particularly in support of the PSM.

The CGS team is organizing a pre-meeting workshop for PSM program directors and graduate deans as well as a plenary session on the PSM at the NAGS meeting in March 2007 to be held in Washington, DC. Carol Lynch met with members of the Executive Committee who were very receptive to both the pre-meeting and the plenary session. Additionally, the CGS team will organize a concurrent session at the CSGS meeting in February in Chattanooga and has been invited back to do sessions at the WAGS and MAGS meetings. A second regional PSM Dean and Program Directors meeting will be held in association with the CSGS meeting. CGS is also working with the National Conference of State Legislators to invite appropriate state legislatures to these regional meetings as a way to inform them about the PSM.

Carol Lynch was invited to work with the National Governors Association on projects, which will highlight the PSM as a key part of the Chair’s initiative on STEM workforce and competitiveness.

The CGS team is developing another promotional brochure on the PSM that is directed toward marketing the PSM to prospective employers.