

To: PSM Program Coordinators, Directors, and/or Deans

Date: February 2017

Thank you for your lasting commitment to Professional Science Master's (PSM) programs and initiatives.

The **National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA)** and the **Professional Science Master's National Office** are two distinct bodies with important and complementary roles that advance PSM growth and quality. The **NPSMA** is the professional membership arm and the **PSM National Office** is the quality assurance arm. We work in close collaboration to provide benefits and services to the institutions offering PSM programs.

Starting in 2017, all institutions launching PSM programs or going through PSM affiliation review will be required to join the membership organization, the NPSMA. Although this is standard practice for other similar member organizations with quality assurance functions, this has not been the standard practice for the PSM community in the past. At this time, just under 40 of our 165 PSM-granting institutions are members of the NPSMA. This disconnect keeps the PSM community from coming together as a whole and using its full capacity for the benefit of all participating institutions.

The changes you will see include:

- A **larger, vibrant academic community** connecting those engaged in PSMs
- **Full access** to available benefits and services through the NPSMA (see enclosure)
- A sliding scale for NPSMA membership dues, based on total PSM program enrollments
- Annual affiliation fees per PSM program or track
- A **unified invoice** that includes annual membership dues and affiliation fees (see sample enclosed)

We recognize this as a significant change, particularly for those institutions that have previously only been engaged with either NPSMA or PSM National Office. We hope you can envision, as we do, the strengthened community, advocacy, services, and quality assurance efforts that will result from this progress.


Please contact us with any questions. We are eager to help every institution continue to build, grow, and sustain its PSM efforts.



Courtney H. Thornton, President, NPSMA



Marilyn J. Wells, Immediate Past President, NPSMA



James D. Sterling, Faculty Director, PSM National Office