

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS RECEIVES PSM GRANT

The **Council of Graduate Schools** (CGS) has received a three-year grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to support and extend the Professional Science Master's degree (PSM) initiative. The \$1.8 million grant will enable CGS to work with graduate schools and state and national policy-makers to promote the Professional Science Master's concept, with the goal of establishing the PSM degree as a regular feature of U.S. graduate education.

PSM degrees are a new type of master's degree designed to prepare graduates for professional science-related positions in business, government, or non-profit sectors. PSM programs provide students with a science or math curriculum comparable to that of a traditional master's program, supplemented by coursework that develops communication and professional skills, and a working knowledge of business principles. These components are highly valued by employers and contribute to the development of a well-trained, globally competitive professional science and technology workforce. There are currently 101 PSM programs at 51 universities in the U.S. Information about them is online at <http://www.sciencemasters.com>.

CGS has partnered with the Sloan Foundation on the Professional Science Master's initiative since 2001, and will now be able to expand its PSM efforts in multiple ways. Among other activities, CGS will publish "best practices" and facilitate discussion between graduate deans, faculty, and business and industry leaders. These efforts will lead to the development of new curricula and internship opportunities in order to better prepare PSM graduates for entrance into the workforce.

The Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology (CPST) will also continue its work on the PSM initiative in 2006. Most notably, CPST will update its online data and statistics on master's education and the master's workforce, and will continue to augment its database of science master's programs in the U.S. These resources are all available free of charge on CPST's science master's clearinghouse, <http://www.sciencemasters.org>.

See <http://www.cgsnet.org> for more details on the CGS PSM initiative.
