

## **Council on Competitiveness to Promote Awareness of Professional Science Master's Degrees**

*CPST Comments*, Vol. 40, No. 5, July/August 2003

The **Council on Competitiveness** has received a two-year grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for an awareness campaign of the importance of Professional Science Master's (PSM) degrees to U.S. competitiveness. The PSM is a relatively new type of master's degree in the sciences that equips graduates for work outside academia, integrating study in the natural sciences and mathematics with knowledge and training in management, law, or other professional domains.

"PSM degrees are important to fill vital workforce needs and to maintain U.S. competitiveness. The PSM movement can capitalize on cutting-edge multidisciplinary trends, such as bioinformatics, that create a foundation for future U.S. economic competitive-ness... The PSM movement represents an opportunity to maintain U.S. leadership in innovation and to increase the overall level of science literacy of the U.S. population," says Council President Deborah Wince-Smith.

Leading universities have undertaken the creation of PSM degree programs in order to better align student training in the sciences with the needs of the marketplace. There are currently over 70 PSM degree programs at more than 30 universities. The Council's role in this will be to strengthen the PSM movement by raising awareness of the PSM among Council members – CEOs, university presidents, labor leaders, and national affiliates. The Council will collaborate with existing PSM partner institutions, including CPST and the Council of Graduate Schools.

For more information on the Council of Competitiveness, visit <http://www.compete.org/>. For more information on master's education, go to <http://sciencemasters.cpst.org> or for specific information on the PSM, visit <http://www.sciencemasters.com>.

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