

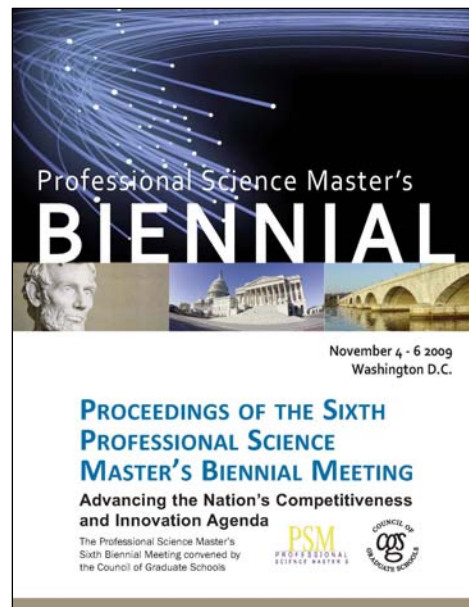
# Preface

The Professional Science Master's degree is rapidly expanding throughout the country, with 35 new programs added in 2009 – more than twice as many as the previous two years combined. The Professional Science Master's Sixth Biennial Meeting, *Advancing the Nation's Competitiveness and Innovation Agenda*, highlights the successes as well as the challenges going forward. The Council of Graduate Schools is pleased to provide these Proceedings of the Sixth Biennial Meeting.

The first plenary session, titled “Enhancement and Expansion of the PSM: National Perspectives,” stressed the role of the PSM in facilitating innovation and the necessity of collaboration among stakeholders – policymakers, universities, and employers. The second plenary focused on the state perspectives, regarding the PSM as a key component of economic and workforce development strategy, emphasizing the need to remain competitive in the global economy. In contributed paper sessions, PSM Program Directors provided valuable information on financial models, ethics education, recruitment and marketing. The panel of distinguished PSM alumni who shared their career experiences was particularly inspiring as was the graduates and employers panel. A new feature of the meeting was a best practice poster session with 25 posters selected for presentation. The posters addressed issues such as the internship, external advisory boards, an online mentoring program, guidelines for PSM program recognition, how PSM programs can serve veterans, ethics, state and system-wide initiatives, student perspectives on the PSM, initiatives of NPSMA, and unique features of several PSM programs.

We are pleased to include remarks or PowerPoint presentations of each of the speakers as well as copies of the contributed papers and posters in these Proceedings.

We have aimed for a Proceedings that captures as much of the information from the meeting as possible. Additionally, we have included the bios of alumni who



were selected by their institutions as being PSM graduates of exceptional ability who have benefited the workforce and society. Our hope is that this information will inspire all of us to advance the development and growth of these graduate programs that enhance our ability as a nation to produce a highly skilled, nimble, and entrepreneurial scientific and technological workforce leading to innovation and spurring economic growth.

I want to thank Sally Francis, CGS Dean in Residence, and Joshua Mahler, CGS Program and Operations Associate, for assembling all these materials and producing this Proceedings.

I'm grateful for the participation of all the speakers. I would like to offer our sincere thanks for the support of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and to the members of the Biennial Planning Committee: Priscilla Kimboko, Don Langenberg, Linda Strausbaugh, and Scott Winston.

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