

NAGPS Joint Statement on Affirming Our Commitment to Graduate and Professional Student Success and Well-Being

We, the undersigned, affirm our collective commitment to graduate and professional students' success and well-being and to ensure our students receive the support necessary to thrive academically, professionally, and personally.

Funding

We are committed to ensuring that graduate and professional students have access to equitable, sustainable, and inclusive funding opportunities. Financial barriers should not prevent students from pursuing advanced degrees, and policies should be implemented that support affordability, accessibility, and financial security for all. We oppose increasing the tax burden on students, including eliminating the lifetime learning tax credit and removing the tax exemption on tuition reductions (e.g., scholarships and tuition waivers).

Additionally, we oppose the reduction of research funding and cuts to higher education as a whole and instead support policies that encourage investments in innovation through education and research. Particularly, we advocate for research and educational grants that support and sponsor graduate student researchers.

Belonging

We are committed to ensuring that every graduate and professional student feels a sense of belonging within our academic communities, as this is critical for academic success. We will continue to advocate for comprehensive strategies to cultivate supportive environments for all graduate and professional students.

International Students

We stand in unwavering support of international students, who contribute invaluable perspectives to the educational environment and are integral to the academic and research excellence of institutions across the United States. We recognize the unique struggles of international students and are committed to advocating for policies that uphold their rights and well-being.

Academic Freedom

We support students' academic freedom and rights of expression, free from censorship. We support students' right to express their opinions free of retribution. Furthermore, we uphold students' autonomy in pursuing research, including on topics that may be deemed controversial. We affirm that research should remain independent of political influence, and funding decisions should be based on scholarly merit rather than alignment with governmental perspectives.

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To co-sign the letter, please fill out this form here:

<https://forms.gle/Vn38EByXvZx7kSvr5>