

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE-  
PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

# 2018 STUDENT ADVOCACY SUMMIT *and* LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS

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MARCH 9–13, 2018  
WASHINGTON, DC

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NAGPS

## ABOUT NAGPS

The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students is the largest non-profit organization advocating for graduate and professional students at public and private institutions across the nation. NAGPS represents more than half a million students across the country.

## ABOUT *the* SUMMIT

Learn more about policy areas that impact graduate-professional education and interact with professionals and policy experts. Listen to the experiences of fellow students and develop advocacy and organizing skills to increase the effectiveness of your efforts at your institution and in your state.

## ABOUT LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS

Be the voice of graduate-professional students in the US and carry our message to members of Congress and congressional staff. Visit with policymakers, advocates, and fellow students during a celebration of graduate-professional education and expand your professional network.

# WELCOME *to* WASHINGTON



Dear Student Leaders,

It is with immense pleasure and pride that I welcome you to Washington DC for this year's spring 2018 Students Advocacy Summit and Legislative Action Days. It has been such privilege to serve as your president and CEO for 2018. I look forward to working with you all to help make this association the best resource for education and information about current policies affecting graduate education. We are committed to providing you with as much tools possible to help you become successful students for the workforce.

My conceptualization of this weekend is coined in a few words "where passion meets purpose" and I think it applies to each of us as we are involved in ensuring graduate education has a place in our nation.

Each of us are drawn to our careers by the passion we have for our various disciplines and its challenges. We have turn this passion collaboratively into the building of an organization which continue to ensure that Graduate and Professional Students have a voice in the legislative process. The Board of Directors and the National Advisory Board is committed to bringing you the most relevant and timely information to assist you in using your passion to meet its purpose by building of this body.

Recently, I listened to a sermon that was delivered by the first elected female president in 168 years of the Jamaica Baptist Union. I was moved by her concept of body building and have decided to use the concept to motivate us in building this organization. While we are not religiously affiliated, this message is fitting for me in my time of leadership in this disrupted environment of higher education in the United States.

For those of us who are engaged in our own personal body building activities we know what is required; constant planning, changes, commitment, dedication and discipline, just to name a few. In most cases, we are mutually independent in the process. Shifting this concept to building of the NAGPS body requires mutual dependence. We the board of director cannot build the body alone, we therefore invite you to partner with us as we make your voice stronger. Together we achieve more (TEAM).

Last year we were forbearers of the movement to prevent our tuition dollars from being taxed and we won the fight. Thanks to our 2017 and now 2018 Director of Legislative Affairs and her team for leading negotiations and made our voices heard on the Capitol Hill. As we focus on the Prosper Act among other issues affecting graduate students, let us become stewards of what is entrusted to us. We will do so by ensuring we pave the way for those who are behind us. We would not be here after 32 years if student leaders then were not thinking about us in a time such as this.

This year we will continue our body building culture in mutual dependency and partnership, through the NAGPS Pillar of Excellence: Advocacy Centered, Research Driven, Leadership Focused, Multiculturally Aware and Financially Literate. More information regarding our plan of action will be available on our website soon.

I am excited about the work we will do this weekend, learning, networking and then sharing with our legislators on the Hill on Monday and Tuesday. I wish you all the best and please have some fun while you are in DC. Continue to use your passion to meet your purpose.

Kind Regards,

Damon Chambers  
President and CEO  
Doctoral Student Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology  
Western Michigan University

# WELCOME *to* LAD



Dear Student Leaders,

Welcome to Washington DC! I am proud to welcome such a distinguished and diverse group of students to our largest Legislative Action Days ever! You are joined by more than 70 of your peers from across the nation. Collectively you represent 26 schools across 16 states with backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, math, public policy, public administration, law, business, public health, counseling, education, anthropology, and communication. You are the face of America's graduate and professional students and this summit provides you the opportunity to share your story with our nation's policymakers. Graduate and professional education has never been more important for our nation's future, but we are now at a crossroads. We are faced with looming budget cuts, dwindling state resources for our institutions and growing student debt.

This weekend will be the time to learn, listen and share. We will hear from distinguished professionals in the fields of higher education and science. We will learn about career opportunities in science and education policy. We will listen to success stories of organizing and collaborating on policy issues from our peers at other institutions. This weekend will prepare you for a dynamic two days on Capitol Hill to tell your members of Congress your story and talk about NAGPS issues in the context of your school and state. Our summit is followed by a networking reception on Capitol Hill Monday evening where we have the chance to meet and network with members of Congress, congressional staff, agency official, and professionals from science and humanities organizations in Washington.

Thank you for your leadership and advocacy in carrying forward the message of graduate-professional education. Your story is powerful, and your unique perspective is an integral part of our collective efforts. We face many challenges but as a united group we are ready to face them head on.

Enjoy your time in Washington!  
Sincerely,

Samantha Hernandez  
PhD Candidate, University of Arizona  
Director of Legislative Affairs, NAGPS

# WHAT *to* EXPECT

THEMES, PROGRAMMING, AND TAKEAWAYS

As a young professional, your time is extremely valuable. To help you get the most out of the Summit and LAD, this weekend's programming is structured around four broad themes with the following intended takeaways:

## Policy Area Workshops

Learn about important issues and policies affecting graduate-professional students' education and careers

## Skills Training

Develop and practice actionable skills and competencies to improve your advocacy, communication, and leadership activities

## Organized Advocacy

Join other graduate-professional students to share your unique perspective with members of Congress and congressional staff

## Professional Networking

Develop your network by meeting other students, members of Congress, congressional staff, science policy experts, and others from the education and research communities

## LINKS *and* RESOURCES

During Saturday and Sunday sessions, feel free to bring a laptop, tablet, or smartphone to follow along with downloadable documents for each policy area that include data, bill history, talking points, and more information.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need have questions or need to reach a conference organizer during your time in Washington, contact:

Samantha Hernandez  
Director of Legislative Affairs, NAGPS  
(361) 215 -7609

Damon Chambers  
President  
(269) 993-9147

Joseph Verardo  
Vice President, NAGPS  
(914) 357-1835

Kristofferson Culmer  
Director of External Affairs  
(573) 239- 6412

# FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND

## NAVIGATING WASHINGTON DC AND CAPITOL HILL

### FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY TRANSIT DIRECTIONS TO HOTEL FROM REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT

1. Take the Blue Line train toward Largo
2. Exit the Blue Line Train at Rosslyn Station
3. Take either the Orange or Silver Line train toward Vienna / Wiehle-Reston
4. Exit the Orange or Silver Line train at Ballston MU Station
5. **Walking:** Head west on Fairfax Dr (0.1mi)
6. Turn left on Utah St (0.1mi)
7. Turn right onto N Glebe Rd (177 ft)

### MONDAY and TUESDAY TRANSIT DIRECTIONS TO CAPITOL HILL FROM THE HOTEL

#### To the House of Representatives

**Buildings:** Take the Orange or Silver Line train toward Largo Town Center/ New Carrollton. Exit at Capitol South Station

#### To the House of Senate Buildings:

1. Take the Orange or Silver Line train toward Largo Town Center/ New Carrollton.
2. Exit train at Metro Center Station
3. Take Red Line train towards Glenmont
4. Exit at Union Station



# AGENDA

## INTRODUCTION AND POLICY AREA WORKSHOPS

### Friday, March 9

6:45 PM Welcome Reception and Dinner  
*Hotel Lobby Bar*  
Pinimini Restaurant and Lounge  
801 N Glebe Rd,  
Arlington, VA 22203  
(703) 537-4200

### Saturday, March 10

Conference location:  
Westin Arlington, F. Scott Fitzgerald A  
801 N Glebe Rd,  
Arlington, VA 22203  
(703) 537-4200

- 8:30 AM Introduction/ Welcome
- 8:45 AM Advocacy Review 2017/ Legislative Agenda 2018  
Samantha Hernandez, NAGPS Director of Legislative Affairs, Arizona State University
- 9:30AM History – Higher Education Act  
Craig Lindwarm, Association of Public Land Grant Universities
- 10:45 AM Break
- 11:00 PM Hill Conversations  
Sarah Spreitzer, American Council on Education
- 12:00 PM Lunch on Your Own
- 1:30 PM Higher Education Act – Clery Act  
Sage Carson, Know Your IX
- 2:30 PM Open Access and Open Educational Resources  
Nick Shockey, SPARC
- 3:15 PM Break

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# AGENDA

## POLICY AREA WORKSHOPS AND SKILLS TRAINING

- 3:30 PM Open Floor and Q& A  
Samantha Hernandez, NAGPS Director of Legislative Affairs, Arizona State University
- 4:00 PM Adjourn
- 4:15 PM Capitol Hill Tour (Scavenger Hunt)  
Kristofferson Culmer, NAGPS Director of External Affairs, University of Missouri
- 7:00 PM Group Dinners and Evening in Washington

### Sunday, March 3

- 9:00AM Breakfast  
Pinzimini Restaurant and Lounge
- 9:40 AM Overview Advocacy Platform  
Rajesh Kumar, NAGPS Advocacy Chair and Employment Concern Advocate, Syracuse University
- 10:00 AM Grad Unions on Campus  
Malini Cadambi
- 10:30 AM Break
- 10:45AM Mental Health Crisis for Grad Students  
Damon Chambers, NAGPS President, Western Michigan University
- 11:30 AM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Work Permit for International Students  
Arthur Serratelli  
Immigration Lawyer
- 2:00 PM Stories of Our Graduate Students Concerns: How can we continue the Advocacy on our Campuses  
Rajesh Kumar, Advocacy Board Chair and Employment Concerns Advocate, Syracuse University

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# AGENDA

## ORGANIZED ADVOCACY AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING

- 3:00 PM Prosper Act Follow Up Strategies: Making the Most of Your Congressional Visits  
Samantha Hernandez, Director of Legislative Affairs, Arizona State University
- 3:30 PM Role Play Hill Visit, Putting it all into Practice  
Kristofferson Culmer, Director of External Affairs, University of Missouri
- 4:30 PM Open Floor and Q&A
- 5:00 PM Adjourn
- 7:00 PM Dinner and Evening in Washington (no planned activities; dinner on your own)

### Monday, March 12

Self-organized Congressional Visits  
Capitol Hill

- 7:00 PM Celebrating American Graduate-Professional Education NAGPS GALA  
Networking event with students, members of Congress, congressional staff,  
science policy experts, and others from the education and research communities

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20004

### Tuesday, March 13

Self-organized Congressional Visits  
Capitol Hill

Depart Washington



# THE NAGPS GALA

*Advancing Higher Education through Advocacy, Leadership, Research, and Partnership*

Date: Monday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20004

## Gala Schedule

7:00 PM Networking, Mingling & Appetizers

7:10 PM Opening Welcome  
Kristofferson Culmer, NAGPS Director of External Affairs

7:20 PM Message from the National Advisory Board  
Dave Zook, Chair NAGPS National Advisory Board

7:25 PM Legislative Update  
Samantha Hernandez - NAGPS Director of Legislative Affairs

7:35 PM Dinner and Mingling

8:05 PM Keynote Address  
Steven Bloom - Director of Government Relations, American Council on Education

8:35 PM Introduction and Presentation of Advocates of Graduate Education  
  
Rep. Kevin Brady, R-TX 8th District, Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee  
  
Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-TX 35th District, Ranking Member of House Ways & Means Subcommittee on Tax Policy  
  
Pete Sessions, R-TX 32nd District

8:55 PM NAGPS Forward Vision and Closing Remarks  
Damon Chambers - NAGPS President & CEO

9:10 PM: More Networking

# NAGPS ADVISORY BOARD

NAGPS would like to thank its Advisory Board members for their selfless service to the Association and their dedication to higher education and graduate – professional students. We also extend thanks for your sponsorship of the NAGPS Gala. Our success would not be possible without your service.

## National Advisory Board Members

**Dave Zook: Advisory Board Chair**  
Chair, Faegre Baker Daniels Consulting

**Nick Repak**  
President Emeritus, Grad Resources

**Matt Cooper**  
Strategic Engagement Manager, Academic Analytics, Past NAGPS President

**Dr. Suzanne Laurich-McIntyre**  
Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Carnegie-Mellon University

**Dr. Dave Masterson**  
Department Chair: History, Philosophy, International Studies and Legal Studies, Morehead State University

**Dr. John Capece**  
Executive Director, Alpha Epsilon Delta: National Honor Society for Graduate Students

**Dr. Joseph Oppong**  
Academic Associate Vice Provost, University of North Texas

**Dr. Jon Kowalski**  
Consultant, McKinsey and Company, Past NAGPS President

# SPONSORS

*Advancing Higher Education through Advocacy, Leadership, Research, and Partnership*



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***NAGPS ADVISORY  
BOARD***

**RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND  
 INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE CENTER**

# WE ARE THE FUTURE.

## WHO WE ARE

We are over 500,000 graduate and professional students standing together to ensure that our nation continues to produce top quality research, creative and artistic works, and invests in American education. We are the backbone of research and teaching at universities across the US, and play a key role in building our nation's technological innovation and artistic and cultural heritage through scholarship and community engagement. We are America's future business, political, and intellectual leaders. We are the future.

## 500,000+

graduate-professional students across the U.S.

STAND WITH US  
[NAGPS.ORG](http://NAGPS.ORG)

## PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE

### ADVOCACY CENTERED

Coordinated federal and state advocacy on issues that impact students

### RESEARCH DRIVEN

Provide opportunities for publishing in our open access Journal of Leadership Development, Advocacy and Research. We also allow students to present their research at our Annual Conference. Additional research tools

### LEADERSHIP FOCUSED

Events, workshops, and publications designed to empower the next generation of leaders in the US

### FINANCIALLY LITERATE

Online financial webinars and consultation through our partners.

### MULTICULTURALLY AWARE

Through our Social Justice Chair we will be engaging our membership to bring awareness to issues of inclusion and diversity on our campus. We will also be partnering with HERC to advocate for our universities to hire a more diverse workforce.

