

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S ASSOCIATION
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National Research Council Makes Major Endorsement of PSM Degree

"We encourage the further development of the National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA)...

The NPSMA has a unique opportunity to strengthen the national PSM movement by engaging all its constituents in a synergistic collaboration."

National Research Council Report, Science Professionals: Master's Education for a Competitive World

On July 11, the National Research Council released the report *Science Professionals: Master's Education for a Competitive World* which states "Professional Master's degree programs in the sciences should be expanded and could boost U.S. competitiveness." In its press release the NRC claims "Policymakers, universities, and employers should work together to speed the development of professionally oriented master's degree programs in the natural sciences. Graduates of these programs -- which build both scientific knowledge and practical workplace skills -- can make a strong contribution to the nation's competitiveness," said the committee that wrote the report.

"Industry, government, and nonprofits need employees who have deep scientific knowledge as well as skills to apply that knowledge in innovative ways," said Rita Colwell, committee chair and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland and the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. "A reinvigorated master's degree in the natural sciences can answer the demand for such science professionals and help ensure that the U.S. has the work force it needs to stay competitive."

Cal Poly Provost Elected to NPSMA Board of Directors

William W. Durgin, Cal Poly Provost and VP for Academic Affairs has joined the Board of the NPSMA.

"Provost Durgin has held many positions in professional societies and in organizations supporting education at the national and state levels. He's earned a name for his ability to foster productive, collegial work environments. His background and longstanding commitment to learning and discovery make him a real asset to the NPSMA board," said NPSMA President Bogdan Vernescu.



*William Durgin, PhD
Provost and VP for Academic
Affairs at Cal Poly*

"I'm honored to be a part of advancing these programs that exemplify Cal Poly's 'learn by doing' philosophy," said Durgin.

National Journals Respond to Release of NRC Report

“The report calls upon Congress to appropriate funds for National Science Foundation grants to universities to promote the development of professional science master's-degree programs, as authorized by the America Competes Act of 2007, and urges policy makers to extend responsibility for those grants to other major federal science agencies.”

- The Chronicle of Higher Education, “National Research Council Supports Professional Master's Degrees,” by Paula Wasley

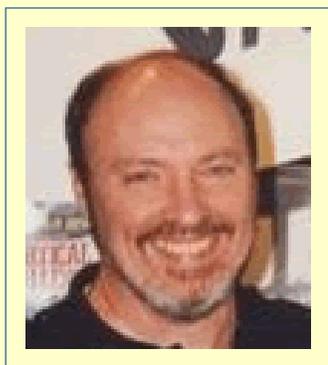
“These professional science master's (PSM) programs typically build communication and problem-solving skills along with advanced scientific knowledge, and they often include interdisciplinary training. Such programs do not replace traditional master's programs, the report notes, but augment them by serving students who have a different scientific career path in mind.”

- Science Daily, “Report Calls For Expansion Of Professional Science Master's Degree Programs,” Adapted from materials provided by The National Academies

“...there is an important and emerging sector of the work force that needs so-called “T-shaped” people. The term refers to those with deep knowledge of a discipline, as well as the broad knowledge needed to thrive and communicate in the worlds of nonprofits, business and government.”

- InsideHigherEd.com, “Scientists for a New Age,” by Jack Stripling

IBM Emerging Solutions Executive Joins NPSMA Board of Directors



*Kirk Jordan, PhD
IBM Corporation*

Kirk E. Jordan, of IBM, is one of the three new members of the NPSMA Board of Directors who were elected this month. At IBM, Kirk has the responsibility for overseeing development of applications for IBM's advanced computing architectures, investigating and developing concepts for new areas of growth for IBM, especially in the life sciences involving high performance computing, providing leadership in high-end computing and simulation, in such areas as systems biology, medical and diagnostic imaging, and high-end visualization, and is the Deep Computing technical representative to IBM's Healthcare and Life Sciences Industry unit.

In addition to his IBM responsibilities, Kirk is able to maintain his visibility as a computational applied mathematician in the high-performance computing community. He is active on national scientific committees on science and high-performance computing issues and has received several awards for his work on supercomputers. Kirk is also the Mathematical Sciences Department Advisory Chair at WPI.

“There’s a growing need for scientists who are as comfortable in the boardroom as they are in the laboratory, and this new breed of thinkers won’t need doctorates.”

Scientists for a New Age

Jack Stripling,

Insidehighered.com

"I entered a PSM program because I knew the program would give me the flexibility to adapt my graduate studies to my specific career goals. I am looking forward to further expanding my horizons through membership in the NPSMA."

Jon Neville, PSM
Critical Path Institute
University of Arizona, '06

NPSMA Welcomes its First PSM Alumnus to the Board of Directors

Jonathan A. Neville, Assistant Project Director at the Critical Path Institute, has been elected to the NPSMA Board. Jon, who is also a member of the NPSMA Alumni Network Advisory Council, earned his PSM degree in Applied BioSciences at the University of Arizona.

At C-Path, Jon's responsibilities include facilitating a variety of pharmacovigilance projects and he is primarily responsible for maintenance of the International Registry for Drug-Induced Arrhythmias.

"Jon's election to our Board is a prime example of the type of work we do with PSM alumni. This is an opportunity for Jon to both further his own career while also contributing to the direction of the NPSMA which will help the PSM graduates that follow in his footsteps. We are very excited at working with Jon and know that his intelligence and energy will benefit the NPSMA and its members greatly," stated Stephen Lemire, NPSMA Executive Director.

Sloan Foundation and WPI Join to Celebrate the First Anniversary of the NPSMA

Michael Teitelbaum, Vice President of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Stephen Lemire, NPSMA Executive Director, Bogdan Vernescu, NPSMA President, and John Orr, WPI Provost, recently met on the campus of Worcester Polytech to discuss the early successes and future plans of the NPSMA.



NPSMA

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