

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S ASSOCIATION
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NPSMA Releases PSM Profile Report at Quarterly Workshop in Tucson

"We think the PSM skill sets will give science students an advantage in the job market and may help job growth in this economy."

- Stephen Lemire,
NPSMA
Executive Director

A new degree program which links business skills with science knowledge is taking hold around the nation. The Professional Science Master's (PSM) programs are growing in number and provide critical communications and business skills together with rigorous training in science, mathematics, and technology fields.

The PSM degree programs offer a good opportunity to develop skills important to business. A new report released at a meeting held in Tucson, Arizona last week showed that almost 2,600 students were enrolled in these new degree programs in 2008. Approximately half of the PSM students are enrolled in life sciences programs such as biotechnology and bioinformatics and large numbers are in mathematics and environmental/geosciences programs.

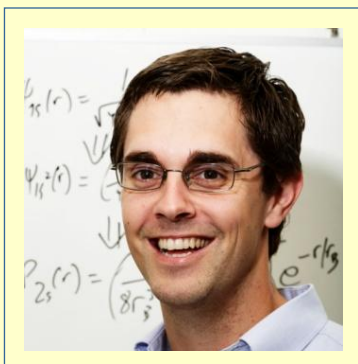
Only 51% of the PSM students were enrolled full-time in 2008 representing a dramatic change from last year when 65% were full-time students. A number of the PSM degree programs seem to be shifting from being primarily a two-year full-time program, to a part-time program with online and hybrid options more responsive to the needs of those individuals who are pursuing these degrees while employed. More than half (55%) of the 2008 graduates responded that they were employed by industry and 10% indicated they had jobs in government.

NPSMA Census Profiles 2600 PSM Students

On March 6, 2009 the NPSMA released the **PSM Degree Program Enrollee & Graduate Report** which is the most comprehensive profile of Professional Science Master's students to-date. The study summarizes the enrollment patterns of the nation's 2592 PSM students (as of September 2008) by academic discipline, gender, and nationality.

In reviewing the academic discipline enrollments, the study also looked at a couple PSM degree program design issues. Findings indicate that, although courses continue to be on-campus offerings by many, the percent of students who have enrolled part-time has shifted rapidly from once had been a predominantly full-time degree.

The **Report** also examines 2008 PSM degree graduates according to the same criteria. Copies of the report are available on the NPSMA website at http://www.npsma.org/assetlibrary/eg_data_report_final.pdf.



PSM Students:
54% Male
67% US Citizens

More than 550 Students Earned PSM Degrees in 2008

“It’s very gratifying to see my students pursuing the career that they are going for, and that’s because of the broad exposure they get with this (PSM) program.”

- Loida Escote-Carlson,
Director, Master of
Biotechnology
Program,
Penn State
-

The NPSMA’s *PSM Degree Program Enrollee & Graduate Report* not only focused on the students currently enrolled in PSM degree programs, but also those that earned PSM degrees in 2008. In total 551 degrees were awarded last year.

The study revealed that three-fourths of the degrees were in the life sciences, mathematics, and environmental/geosciences. The graduates’ profile revealed that 55% were male; 65% were US citizens; and 8% were under-represented minorities.

Examination of post-graduation employment indicated that 55% went to work in industry; 10% for government; 14% went on for further study (which included some PSM graduates that were required to complete medical residency programs); and 21% were either unknown or had gone to work in an academic laboratory.

Copies of the report are available on the NPSMA website at http://www.npsma.org/assetlibrary/eg_data_report_final.pdf.

\$15M for PSM Degree Programs to NSF in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

“On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) into law. One of the principal purposes of the law is to ‘provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health’.

In response to this landmark legislation, NSF has developed policies, procedures, and Frequently Asked Questions for use by the awardee community. These documents provide up-to-date information regarding NSF’s implementation of the Recovery Act, and are available at www.nsf.gov/recovery.

The Foundation also expects to expeditiously award funds as specified in the Recovery Act for...the Science Masters program, (funded at \$15 million). Solicitations...will be posted this spring.”

-From Notice No. 131
Office of the Director
Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr.
National Science Foundation
March 18, 2009



*Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director, NSF*



30 PSM Professionals Participated in NPSMA Quarterly Workshop in Tucson

The NPSMA hosted a PSM Networking Social and day-long workshop on March 5-6 in Tucson, AZ at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa. Veteran PSM program directors from across the country, NPSMA board members, representatives of colleges and universities interested in starting PSM degree programs and National Science Foundation program officers gathered for intensive and productive sessions.

Many issues related to PSM degree program development and sustainability were explored as well as employer development, student and alumni relations, and many other topics.

Participants included Eric Kennedy (left) of Arizona State University and Al Kern (below) of California State University, San Marcos.

Save the Date!
**The next NPSMA
 Quarterly
 Workshop will be
 held on Thursday,
 June 18
 and Friday, June
 19
 in Nashville, TN.
 Save the Date!**



NPSMA Elects Don Peters to Board; Hires Admin. Assistant

The NPSMA recently added Don Peters to its Board of Directors. Don is the Senior Manager of Systems Engineering R&D for B-D Biosciences Cell Analysis. Don has worked in product development involving biotechnology and medical diagnostics for over 28 years. Don has been a member of the Board of Directors for the College of Science Development Council at San Jose State University (SJSU) since 1998 and is currently a member of the Biotechnology Professional Science Masters Advisory Board at SJSU.

The NPSMA also recently hired Debra Warren-Hite as a half-time administrative assistant to work out of NPSMA World Headquarters. Deb has extensive administrative experience in nonprofit organizations. Please join us in welcoming her on board!



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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

(The NPSMA is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization; Tax ID # 20-8766099)

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORY

_____ Business, Industry, Nonprofit, Government Employer		\$4,000
_____ Academic Institution		\$2,000
(1 member per PSM program)		
(PSM alumni that enroll in Alumni Network - 1 year FREE)		
_____ Academic - Employer Partnership		\$5,000
_____ Academic System	(3 to 5 campuses)	\$5,000
	(each additional campus)	\$1,000
_____ Individual		\$ 50
_____ PSM Alumnus		\$ 50
_____ PSM Student	1 st year - FREE; 2 nd year	\$ 25

PLEASE PRINT, COMPLETE FORM AND INCLUDE WITH PAYMENT TO THE **NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S ASSOCIATION**. PAYMENT IS DUE UPON RECEIPT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

QUESTIONS: STEPHEN LEMIRE, (508) 831-4996, SLEMIRE@NPSMA.ORG

PLEASE PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW

Name of Business or Academic Institution _____

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City, State, Zip _____

Individual Information (Academic Institutions may provide one contact person/PSM program)

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Name _____

Title _____

Phone _____

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