

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S ASSOCIATION
100 INSTITUTE ROAD, WORCESTER, MA 01609
(508) 831-4996 * WWW.NPSMA.ORG

NPSMA Publishes Findings of first-ever PSM Alumni Employment Survey

“Nearly 20% of PSM graduates report earning more than \$90,000 per year.”

- NPSMA's
2009 PSM Alumni Employment Survey Report

This research initiative was the first attempt to reach out directly to the alumni of PSM degree programs. The response rate was around 14% (281 alumni), with 53% of the respondents coming from PSM degree programs in the life sciences while the rest came from graduates of Environmental/Geophysical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Computational Sciences, Physics, or Chemistry. The majority (62%) of the alumni are currently employed in industry, 13% are in academia while the rest are in government (9%), nonprofit (9%) or in various other sectors (8%).

The majority of employers (55%) where the PSM alumni work have more than 1000 employees while 13% were small companies or organizations with up to 25 employees. The most common job titles held by alumni are variations of Senior Research Scientist/Research Associate/Research Assistant or Project Manager/Product Manager/Program Manager.

The median annual salary is between \$60,000-\$64,999. It is noteworthy that 44% of the alumni that already received job promotions indicated that their PSM degree influenced their eligibility for that promotion.

When asked as to what additional training they wish they had from their PSM degree programs, the alumni identified: finance (accounting, analysis, and modeling), project and business management, career development (internship and employment assistance), networking with industry and alumni, statistics, and software applications.

The complete report is available at:
www.npsma.org/assetlibrary/alumni_survey_report.pdf.

Springfield Workshop yields record Attendance

The NPSMA organized a Networking Social and Quarterly Workshop on September 9-10 in Springfield, MA. Nearly fifty attendees, consisting of program directors, administrators, alumni, and students gathered to renew and make new connections.

The best practices agenda focused on the recently released NSF Science Masters Program RFP, state and system-wide PSM initiatives, PSM program development and student recruitment, as well as building and maintaining relationships with local employers. The final panel was a discussion with regional PSM alumni and students.



NPSMA Members to Elect four new Board Members from slate of seven Candidates

The NPSMA Nominating Committee, under the guidance of Loida Escote-Carlson lecarlson@npsma.org and Elizabeth Friedman friedman@npsma.org, has put forward a final slate of nominees for election to the 2010 NPSMA Board of Directors.

Of the seven candidates, four will be elected by the NPSMA membership to a three-year term. Beginning October 23, electronic ballots will be distributed to each NPSMA member. Voting will remain open until 5:00pm Eastern time on Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

The entire 2010 Board of Directors, including the four officers, will be announced to the membership at the NPSMA Annual Meeting which will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 6:30pm in the Leaders Room of Bistro Bis of the Hotel George in Washington, DC.

The seven nominees for election to the Board are pictured counter-clockwise from top left:

Cynthia Bainton, Northeastern University

Daniel Chatham, Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences

John Nishio, California State University, Chico

Jean Schaake, University of North Texas

Sadanand Srivastava, Bowie State University

Ching-Hua Wang, California State University, Channel Islands

Joseph Whittaker, Morgan State University

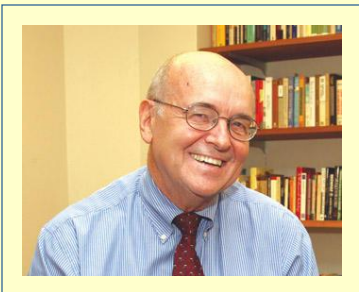


Oregon Statewide PSM Initiative Shifts into Over-drive with Organizational Meetings

This summer, Oregon received a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to implement its statewide PSM program development initiative. Ursula Bechert, Director of Off-Campus Programs for the College of Science at Oregon State University, is serving as coordinator for this effort along with Marvin Kaiser, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Portland State University. The Oregon PSM Initiative was initially led by Bruce Schafer, Director of Industry Affairs for the Chancellor's Office of the Oregon University System (OUS) and Executive Director of the Engineering and Technology Industry Council. Additional team members included Senator Richard Devlin, Senate Majority Leader, Margie Lowe, Governor's Higher Education Policy Advisor, and Steve Mahon, General Manager for TriQuint Semiconductor. Oregon State University (OSU) has been serving as the lead institution since it is currently the only university in the Pacific Northwest to offer PSM degree programs (<http://psm.science.oregonstate.edu>). That will soon change with PSM programs in various stages of development at seven of the OUS campuses including Southern Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University, Portland State University (PSU), Oregon Health Sciences University, Western Oregon University, and the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT).



Ursula Bechert, Oregon State University and NPSMA President, (top right pictured with Sheila Tobias), is serving as coordinator of the Oregon PSM Statewide Initiative along with Marvin Kaiser, Portland State University (below).



A two-day workshop recently hosted by Portland State University in mid-September launched the statewide effort. One day was used to explore development of a new multi-institutional PSM program in renewable energy. Nancy Hamilton, Senior Policy Advisor for Economic Development and Workforce in the Office of the Governor spoke at the opening dinner event and chaired a panel discussion on projected regional job opportunities in renewable energy. Representatives from the Oregon Employment Department, academic partner institutions (OSU, PSU and OIT), as well as various renewable energy industries (like SolarWorld Industries America, Energy Trust of Oregon, Portland General Electric and Vestas America) came together to outline the program structure and curriculum. The second day of the workshop focused on the general statewide PSM initiative, outlining goals and activities helpful to new program development efforts at individual campuses. Carol Lynch with the Council of Graduate Schools described current policy initiatives underway, Sheila Tobias shared an update on national statewide PSM initiatives and lessons learned, Carol Stoel from the National Science Foundation provided information about their PSM grants program, and NPSMA executive director Stephen Lemire gave an overview of NPSMA best practices and national coordination initiatives. We were fortunate to have so many national leaders participate in this event! Helping lead discussions on industry partnerships, program sustainability, and marketing were Stephan Crothers from San Jose State University, John Nishio from CSU in Chico, and Faramarz Valafar from San Diego State University. As is typical for many of our PSM gatherings, we ended our workshop by listening to the experiences of some of OSU's PSM alumni, which was encouraging.

Activities for Oregon's statewide PSM effort will next focus on developing an Oregon PSM Advisory Board, creating a website and brochure, drafting a proposal to designate the PSM as a separate degree recognized throughout the OUS, organizing additional workshops to facilitate cooperative program development efforts and sharing best practices, and establishing a small grants program to support growth of PSM programs throughout the state.

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

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Name _____

Title _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____