

The INNOVATOR



The Voice of the PSM

Volume 10, Issue 1

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Message from the President



You know the old saying: time flies when you're having fun...presiding over a national association. I began my two-year term as NPSMA president in January 2017, and these few short weeks have seemed like a whirlwind. So much so that I want to remind you now to put on your calendars this year's annual conference, "Build, Grow, Sustain," November 9-10 in Phoenix, AZ, and the November 8 pre-conference workshop "Marketing Your PSM Program." It will be here before you know it, and you won't want to miss the lineup of speakers and sessions being planned for NPSMA's 10th year! Learn more about these exciting events on page 3.

The NPSMA board is made up of dedicated and talented volunteers and PSM leaders, and we encourage you to reach out to us throughout the year. We are focused on three goals this year:

- Engage strategic partners in the PSM vision.
- Provide compelling member benefits.
- Model effective operational practices.

In this early part of 2017, we've fine-tuned some operational practices in order to direct more human and financial resources towards our other goals of engaging strategic partners and providing compelling benefits. We are piloting two new board roles, Associate Vice Presidents for Member Benefits and for Marketing and Outreach. Together, they are working to ensure that all of our benefits are known by their target audiences and provide maximum value. For example, you may not know that a small group of PSM program directors and administrators convene on a monthly phone call for informal discussions of topics that interest PSM program directors, particularly new ones. We look forward to soon sharing a plan to expand this benefit to all NPSMA members while retaining the relaxed, engaging feel so valued by those who participate.

I am also pleased that many NPSMA members participated in our February 1 webinar where we, along with the PSM National Office (PSMNO), introduced several initiatives underway or being planned for 2017. We also spent time talking about the new unified pricing model - why it came to be, how it will work, and what it means for you. For those who missed it, [click here](#) to view the PowerPoint version.

Here's the bottom line – **right now, only about 25% of the institutions offering PSM programs are members of and involved in NPSMA.** The current structures of the PSM community has allowed this to happen, and we're working very closely with the PSMNO, the affiliation arm, to remedy it. Imagine being invited to a doubles tennis tournament, but you're the only player that shows. Or being handed an UNO deck with only the blue cards.

(continued on page 2)

Save the Date

NPSMA 8th National Conference Members Meeting and Pre-conference Workshop

November 8-10, 2017

Crowne Plaza Phoenix Airport
4300 East Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona

November 8:
**Marketing your PSM
Programs**

November 9-10:
Build, Grow, Sustain

Registration Opens in July
Details on Page 3

President's Message (continued from page one)

If we want to enlighten global graduate education providers and participants about the benefits of PSMs, then we have to start working with **our full power source** – ALL PSM institutions and programs.

Along those lines, several PSM directors have approached me or other board members with a strong desire for up-to-date videos that they can share with faculty, administrators, industry professionals, prospective students, or others interested in learning more about PSM programs. As the new membership and unified pricing model progresses forward, and the number of participating institutions grows, the NPSMA should realize the resources needed to help the Associate Vice Presidents for Member Benefits and for Marketing and Outreach to provide these kinds of services for the PSM community. As for now, we would love to hear from any of you who have produced materials that may be of benefit to others or to the NPSMA in this anniversary year. Let us know by writing coordinator@npsma.org with the subject title "VIDEOS".

Finally, we hope you saw our recent solicitation for an NPSMA member to serve as our Financial Officer. We aim to identify and tap a talented member with expertise and skills in accounting and budgeting, as well as the interest, capacity, and potential for longer-term service to the NPSMA. Please consider nominating yourself or another for this incredibly important role. For more details on this important opportunity, please read the article on this page.

Again, it is an honor to serve you this year. I hope you will feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Best wishes to your PSM faculty, staff, and students for a great start to your semesters and terms.

Courtney H. Thornton, Ed.D.
President, NPSMA

JOIN THE NPSMA

Individuals, click here:

<https://www.professionalsciencemasters.org/membership/individual>

Academic Institutions:

Contact the [NPSMA office](#).

Only members receive the *Innovator!*

Nominations Invited For NPSMA Financial Officer

The NPSMA is pleased to offer the opportunity for one of its members to serve as an officer in our national/international organization. The NPSMA seeks nominations for a member to serve as its Financial Officer to provide financial and accounting oversight and services to the NPSMA. The Financial Officer serves on the NPSMA Executive Committee (monthly calls) and participates in the meetings of the full NPSMA Board of Directors (monthly calls).

The Financial Officer, in conjunction with staff and/or consultants, produces and submits the annual budget of the NPSMA to the Board of Directors, and submits and presents financial statements during the monthly Board meetings.



The Financial Officer will also become a bank signatory, work with the NPSMA Coordinator and bookkeeper to ensure accurate and consistent financial documentation, liaise with bookkeeping firm to resolve conflicts, and work with PSM leadership to develop, approve and present a budget to the NPSMA board for national conferences and other events. The individual selected will be subject to a background check.

The Financial Officer position, unlike other NPSMA executive officers, is neither term-limited nor restricted to an elected Director. The Board desires to identify a Financial Officer with the required skills who may be willing and able to serve for a number of years until such time as the Board or the acting Financial Officer requires a change. The Financial Officer may be reimbursed for expenses related to board service. The newly selected Financial Officer may expect a two-month overlap with the current Interim Financial Officer.

NPSMA members are eligible and encouraged to nominate other NPSMA members or self-nominate. Nomination packets (≤5 pages) must include a cover letter detailing the nominee's qualifications to perform the duties as described, as well as an abbreviated CV or resume.

Nomination materials should be sent to coordinator@npsma.org before April 1, 2017 with the subject line "financial officer". Decision anticipated by May 1, 2017.

How Do You Market Your PSM Degree?

Are you interested in learning how to promote your PSM program with limited resources and within a budget? We understand that marketing your PSM programs is one of your most challenging responsibilities.

We have a solution! Plan to attend the **2017 NPSMA pre-conference workshop, “Marketing Your PSM Programs”** on November 8, 2017, in beautiful Phoenix, Arizona, and learn practical skills to:

- Develop and support an effective website
- Identify appropriate social media platforms
- Integrate your social media and website content with other communications
- Take advantage of low-cost campus marketing opportunities
- Create a marketing strategy using academic and non-academic, internal and external channels
- Create a message that will resonate with potential students and employers

We are recruiting expert speakers for these topics and more. Please contact Co-chairs Heidi Harkins (hharkins@email.unc.edu) and Ray Hoobler (ray.hoobler@utah.edu) with suggestions for speakers or topics before April 15, 2017.

Proposals For National Conference Sessions Invited

Do you have an idea for a 30 minute “HOT TOPIC” or a 1 hour Concurrent Session?

The National Professional Science Masters Association (NPSMA) is seeking submissions for a limited number of sessions at the **8th National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona on November 9-10, 2017.**

Proposals should be related to the conference theme of **Build, Grow and Sustain PSM programs.**

The planning committee is also interested in proposals related to new developments in the preparation of successful professionals within one or more of these major fields of study for PSM programs:

- Agricultural Science/Food Science/Nutrition
- Biotechnology/Biomedical/Pharmaceutical
- Computer Science/Analytics/Big Data/Statistics
- Environmental Sciences/Ocean Science/Sustainability/GIS
- Physical/Chemical Sciences

To submit your proposal, please indicate whether it is for a 30 minute “Hot Topic” or 1 hour concurrent session and send organizer’s name, contact information, a title, and a <250 word abstract to: Ramona.Mellott@nau.edu by **4/15/2017**. Proposals will be reviewed by members of the planning committee and applicants will be notified of the committee’s decisions prior to Friday, June 1, 2017.

If you have any questions or are considering submitting a proposal, please email: Ramona.Mellott@nau.edu.

CAPITOL COMMENTARY



The advent of a new Administration in Washington, DC has raised some uncertainty about the prospects for both higher education policy and science policy going forward. Amidst this uncertainty it is clear that there will be challenges and opportunities for the higher education and science communities over the next several years.

The new Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, was narrowly confirmed by the U. S. Senate on February 7. Her experience has been largely in the K-12 sector and her views on higher education are not widely known. This year Congress is likely to consider the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

UNIVERSITY PERSPECTIVES

PSM Alumna to Receive the AAFS 2017 Outstanding Early Career Achievement Award

Kristina Hoffman, a 2015 graduate of Washington State University (WSU) Professional Science Master's (PSM) in Molecular Biosciences, credits the training she received in her PSM degree and in particular her PSM internship work in her success in being nominated and ultimately receiving a prestigious national award. Currently with the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Division in Marysville, WA, Kristina is the recipient of the 2017 American Academy of Forensic Sciences Outstanding Early Achievement Award. One of the criteria for receiving the award is "the recipient shall have demonstrated both leadership and outstanding achievement through contributions that have served to advance forensic science and its application to the legal system in a manner that promotes professionalism, integrity, competency, education, research, practice, and collaboration". The NPSMA extends congratulations to Kristina and the WSU PSM program on her accomplishment.

Norah McCabe, PSM Director and Clinical Associate Professor, Washington State University

Among other things, this statute currently authorizes the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program that supports masters and doctoral students in designated areas of national need. Recently, President Trump formed a new Task Force on Higher Education to be chaired by Jerry Falwell, Jr., president of Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. The focus will be on over-regulation and micromanagement in higher education. The Task Force will provide advice to the U.S. Department of Education.

President Trump outlined priorities for his Administration during the Presidential campaign and more recently in his first speech to a joint session of Congress. The priority in the area of education is legislation to fund school choice for disadvantaged youth. Other priorities addressed during the President's Congressional speech include increasing military spending by over ten percent (about \$54 billion) and cutting roughly the same amount from non-defense programs including those in science, education and the environment. The President also stressed his desire to replace the Affordable Care Act, revitalize U.S. infrastructure and implement tax reform. Full details of the current environment affords clear opportunities for members of the PSM community to highlight the role of PSM programs in preparing highly skilled STEM professionals. Members of Congress, state and local officials and other national officials are all very interested in ways to enhance local, state, regional and national economies. There are also opportunities to engage in outreach to national higher education and science related organizations to collaborate on strategies and plans to advance mutual interests. In the current environment, communication and outreach are critical to building the PSM brand and to enhancing support for the enterprise.

Patricia McAllister, Governmental Relations Specialist

FROM THE PSM NATIONAL OFFICE

In February, each PSM program representative was emailed a letter about new collaborative efforts of the PSM National Office (PSMNO) and the National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA). Included in the communication was a chart showing the list of benefits of PSM affiliation and membership as well as a sample of the new unified-pricing invoice. In this brief update, we highlight how you can access these important topics on our recently-unified PSM webpage:

www.professionalsciencemasters.org. Please note that should you try to access either of the previous URLs, www.sciencemasters.com or www.npsma.org, you will automatically be redirected to this new URL that serves as the common resource for the entire PSM initiative.

First, we are pleased to welcome our new members of the **PSM National Office Steering Committee**: Patricia McAllister, Former VP for Government Relations and External Affairs, Council of Graduate Schools; Dr. Heidi Harkins, Executive Director of the PSM Programs and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Courtney Thornton, Associate Provost for Academic Personnel and Policy at NC State University and the President of the NPSMA; and Marc Doble, Executive Director, Business Analysis and External Process Development at Amgen and 2002 PSM graduate from Keck Graduate Institute. The PSM National Office Steering Committee can be viewed on the website <https://www.professionalsciencemasters.org/national-leadership/psm-national-office-steering-committee>.

We would also like to draw your attention to the third rotating-page on the website: **Ensuring Outstanding Benefits and High Quality**. This page further details the unified efforts of the NPSMA and National Office to collaborate and ensure PSM success and also includes a link to a list of Benefits of PSM Affiliation and Membership. The list of benefits continues to expand as we work together with the NPSMA to respond to feedback from the PSM community. We are at your service, so please click the CONTACT US button at the top of the webpage to identify the appropriate individuals for your communications.

Finally, please review the **New Dues and Fees** associated with the expanded joint efforts. The website <https://www.professionalsciencemasters.org/affiliation/new-dues-and-fees> describes the new Unified Pricing – which is triggered to take effect when the first PSM program at a school comes up for their 5-year Affiliation Review. To view a PowerPoint version of a recent webinar that described new PSM initiatives and explained the Unified Benefits and the Unified Pricing of dues and fees, [Click here](#).

Jim Sterling, Faculty Director, PSM National Office
Kiriko Komura, Administrative Director, PSM National Office

Nominations Invited For The INNOVATOR Editorial Board

Beginning in 2016, the NPSMA revised and revitalized its electronic publications for members with a new name, ongoing featured articles, and a more visually engaging look. The name INNOVATOR was selected in recognition of the role of the PSM initiative in revolutionizing professional master's level training in STEM disciplines. The full INNOVATOR newsletter was published three times a year (spring, summer, fall) and supplemented by approximately monthly one page innovator flyers with more of an announcement/update format.

As part of ongoing improvements, in 2017 the INNOVATOR will move to having one issue that is curated with peer-reviewed articles. This enhancement provides our members with both the opportunity to serve on an Editorial Board and to publish PSM-related information in a peer-reviewed e-publication. The first issue that will publish articles from members will be the Fall 2017 issue, so begin thinking about your possible contribution. Information on article types, submission requirements and the review process will appear in the summer newsletter and elsewhere.

We welcome nominations (including self-nominations) to serve on the INNOVATOR Editorial Board. Nomination packets consisting of: 1) a letter of interest that highlights PSM activities and any relevant experience with review processes and 2) a short resume (<3 pages) should be mailed to coordinator@npsma.org (subject line: Innovator Editorial Board) before April 15, 2017. Two or three new Editorial Board members will be selected by committee and announced by May 1, 2017.



Carol Lynch, NPSMA VP for Member Benefits
Linda Strausbaugh, NPSMA Director of Strategic Initiatives

NPSMA Awards

Each year at its National Conference held in November, NPSMA presents awards to outstanding members of the PSM community.

2016 Board of Directors Award:

Dr. Todd Arnold

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Mount Sinai Genetic Testing Laboratory



2016 Board of Directors Award:

Chelsea Nihill

Middle Tennessee State University



2016 President's Award:

Debra Warren-Hite

National Professional Science Master's Association



2017 NPSMA Board of Directors

President: Courtney H. Thornton, Ed.D., Associate Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Policy, North Carolina State University (-2018)

Vice-President: Scott Herness, Ph.D., Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Studies; Interim Dean, Graduate School, Ohio State University (-2018)

Interim Finance Officer: Joaquin Carbonara, Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics, SUNY Buffalo State College (2017)

Convener: Tim Born, Ph.D., PSM Program Coordinator, Grand Valley State University (-2019)

Associate Vice President for Marketing and Outreach: Ray Hoobler, Ph.D., Director, Professional Master of Science and Technology Program, University of Utah (-2019)

Associate Vice President for Member Benefits: Carol Lynch, Ph.D., Dean Emerita, University of Colorado Boulder (-2019)

Immediate Past-President: Marilyn Wells, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice- President for Academic Affairs, Minnesota State University, Mankato (-2017)

Ross Barnard, Ph.D., D.Sc., Professor and Director of Biotechnology Program, University of Queensland, Australia (-2018)

Amber Bloechle, M.S., GIS Online Director in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science, University of West Florida (-2019)

Rana Khan, Ph.D., Vice Dean and Chair, Information and Technology Systems Department, University of Maryland, University College (-2018)

David King, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of History, SUNY Oswego; Dean Emeritus, Graduate Studies & Research (-2017)

Ramona Mellott, Ph.D., Dean, Graduate School, Northern Arizona University (-2017)

Priyanka Patel, M.S., (Alumni Representative) Clinical Project Manager, Oncology, BioClinica (-2018)

Barry Ries, Ph.D., Associate Vice President of Research and Dean of Graduate Education, Minnesota State University, Mankato (-2019)

Inge Wefes, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Graduate School, University of Colorado, Denver (-2017)

BRIEF UPDATES ON PSM PROGRAMS

Please submit your program updates to the NPSMA office for inclusion in our Summer Newsletter. Deadline: June 10, 2017. Email: coordinator@npsma.org.

Newsletter

Managing Editor:
Debra Warren-Hite
Advising Editor:
Linda Strausbaugh

The *INNOVATOR*, "The Voice of the PSM," is published periodically throughout the year by the National Professional Science Master's Association, P.O. Box 3455, Riverview, FL 33568-3455. Send newsletter submissions to coordinator@npsma.org.

This newsletter serves as a venue for NPSMA members to make program announcements and attract national visibility. To receive full benefits and best practices advice for new programs, we encourage you to join the NPSMA.