WARM GREETINGS FROM THE GRADUATE SCHOOL! This year brought exciting initiatives, programs, and events to TGS that we are pleased to share with you through our second annual strategic plan update.

We reinforced our core value of diversity through the creation of a new Office of Diversity and Inclusion whose extensive recruitment efforts this fall have supported a 6% increase in underrepresented minority (URM) PhD application numbers since last year. This new leadership has enabled us to execute key TGS initiatives, such as our Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) and Introduction to Graduate Education at Northwestern Days (IGEN), with renewed vigor and enhancements.

TGS is committed to providing professional development programming and training opportunities for our graduate students and postdoctoral fellows that position them to be competitive across a variety of careers. This year we piloted a number of new initiatives, including the University Seminar: A Higher Education Leadership Dinner Series, which provides a forum for a select group of graduate students to learn about university leadership and administration from senior leaders across Northwestern. We hope to build on this and other pilot programs with other such opportunities going forward. We also made available resources to expand opportunities for students and postdoctoral fellows to travel to conferences, seminars, and meetings that will further their career advancement.

A core value of TGS is service, and we were eager to launch the Graduate Student Tracking System (GSTS), a highly customizable tool, which draws information from a variety of sources into one central point of administration making it easy for faculty, students, and programs to efficiently and actively monitor student progress.

This year TGS unveiled innovative strategies for engaging with TGS applicants, students, and postdoctoral fellows. TGS makes a strong first impression on prospective students and postdoctoral fellows with our new website; officially welcomes new students through our suite of new student orientation activities; and builds community among students, faculty, and staff via the new TGS Commons.

These are only a few examples of the great work achieved this year. We look forward to working together to continue to expand and innovate in 2015-16!

Warmly,

Dwight A. McBride, PhD
Dean of The Graduate School &
Associate Provost for Graduate Education

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A Note from Dean McBride:

Did You Know?

TGS’s annual recruitment efforts (which include recruitment visits and conferences, signature programs like SROP and IGEN, and financial aid support) total nearly $9.7 million
Diversity
Reinforcing the Centrality of Diversity and Inclusion to TGS and Our Strategic Plan

New Office of Diversity and Inclusion continues to expand TGS’s diversity recruitment and retention efforts, improve our marketing and communications strategy, and enhance relationships with target schools and partner organizations (see map below for key points of contact and click on it for further information).

TGS celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) this year; leveraging the CIC common application led to an unprecedented number of 858 SROP applications (a 396% increase over last year).

New Diversity and Inclusion Intern, Laura Carrillo, supports the planning and execution of key diversity initiatives, conducts benchmarking research, and develops strategies to improve diversity recruitment pipelines.

During TGS’s fourth annual Introduction to Graduate Education at Northwestern Days (IGEN) faculty/staff and student pairs from minority-serving institutions visit our campus, learn about all that graduate education at Northwestern has to offer, and meet with students and faculty in our programs.

NSF AGEP Professorial Advancement Initiative Grant awarded to Northwestern and other CIC institutions to increase minority faculty hires within the CIC (including postdoctoral fellow programming and faculty hiring committee training).

FACT:
URM PhD application numbers have increased 6% since last year; 8% of PhD applicants consider themselves a member of the LGBTQI community.

Pictured from left: Brittany Lowe-Lipsey, Program Assistant; Nsombi B. Ricketts, Assistant Dean of Diversity & Inclusion; and Noelle Wakefield, IBiS PhD student and SROP leader.
Service
Fostering Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Professional Success

- TGS’s new University Seminar dinner series provides 30 graduate students with the opportunity to discuss academic administration and leadership in higher education, the organizational structure of colleges and universities, and how graduate education fits into the overall University structure

- Inaugural Higher Education Leadership Intern, Cheryl Berriman, examines TGS’s current professional development programming to help students with long-range career planning and identifies new programming opportunities

- Strong partnerships with TGS graduate programs and partner schools, along with information from data collection and analysis, shape graduate enrollment to align with programming and resources to support funding, professional development, retention and placement of students

- The Graduate Student Tracking System (GSTS) — a collaborative effort of TGS, NUIT, SES, and McCormick — is a highly customizable tool rolled out this spring that helps students track their successes and provides critical data for programs on students’ satisfactory academic progress, including awards, publications, meetings attended, and teaching

- Two new Mellon-funded awards make a total of $150,000 available to cluster students in the areas of Interdisciplinary Conference Travel Support and Interdisciplinary Cluster Programming

- Expansion of the Postdoctoral Professional Development Travel Award program enables TGS to increase number of funded awards by more than 300%

- Centralized training grant support from TGS supports faculty, postdocs, students, and Northwestern’s research enterprise; a new Multidisciplinary Visual Sciences Training Grant has been funded by the NIH’s National Eye Institute for approximately $600,000 over five years, and a new NSF Research Traineeship Program Grant supporting training in Data Enabled Science Education (DESE) was selected for funding at approximately $3M over five years

Did You Know? Currently 93% of PhD students in the Humanities and Social Sciences receive 6th-year funding through a variety of sources.
Engagement
Supporting TGS Partners Through New Mechanisms, Spaces, and Resources

- **TGS’s website** undergoes a complete redesign making TGS resources, policies, and offerings easily accessible for prospective applicants and University constituents

- **New TGS Commons**, unveiled this fall in a beautifully renovated space in Seabury Hall, boasts a flexible use of space to meet a variety of event and programming needs with the latest in smart room technologies, allowing for increased connectivity with the Chicago campus

- A new TGS space on the 3rd floor of Abbott Hall, available by fall 2015, will host an office for the Dean of TGS, a suite of offices for TGS administrators that will allow us to bring more services to the Chicago campus, and a conference room available for use by graduate student and postdoctoral fellow groups for meeting and videoconferencing to further bridge the distance between Chicago and Evanston

- **TGS’s Biennial Progress Review process** – which makes TGS’s extensive statistics and data collection available to programs – expands to include Master’s Programs, enabling fruitful conversation regarding the needs of Master’s students and the goals of their programs; strategies for diversifying the graduate student population; and relevant TGS administrative policies

- **New Orientation** festivities include a day-long overview of resources and services available to TGS students, with information tailored to students by discipline and degree sought, and our Welcome Back Bash for all students

- The Office of Admissions & Recruitment offers graduate programs a new, easy-to-use template for generating welcoming offer letters to distribute to admitted PhD applicants

- A new Video Graduate Assistant, Justin Reifert, is helping us to showcase our programming, including SROP, the Excellence in Mentoring Initiative, Awards and Recognition, and IGEN

- An expanded **National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week Reception** now includes “Speed Networking” with select campus representatives
Clockwise, upper left: TGS Commons at 2122 Sheridan Road, Orientation 2014 at Pick-Staiger, and TGS’s new website.