



**Advancing Innovation in Graduate Education:
Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) Principal Investigators' Meeting**
October 15–16, 2026
The Darcy Hotel, Washington, DC
Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

- Support awareness and learning about broader themes, challenges and innovations in STEM graduate education.
- Provide a forum where IGE grantees can discuss both challenges and evidence-based practices with their colleagues.
- Promote broader dissemination of IGE innovations to the STEM graduate education community.

Day 1: Thursday, October 15

11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.	Collect Badge and Materials; Poster Set-Up <i>Please plan to arrive during the 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. period to get settled at the hotel. Those traveling longer distances may need to arrive the day before. If an early check-in is not available, you may store your bags with the hotel staff.</i>	<i>Logan Ballroom Foyer</i>
1:00–1:30 p.m.	Welcome and Meeting Overview Dr. Chevelle Newsome, President, Council of Graduate Schools Dr. Charisse Carney-Nunes, Deputy Directorate Head, Directorate of STEM Education (NSF EDU), National Science Foundation Dr. Kathleen Ehm, Program Director, Directorate of STEM Education (EDU), National Science Foundation	<i>Logan Ballroom</i>
1:30–2:30 p.m.	Opening Keynote Dr. Kimberly Griffin, Dean of the College of Education, University of Maryland	<i>Logan Ballroom</i>
2:30–2:45 p.m.	Setting Our Learning Agenda Dr. Julia Kent, Vice President, Strategy and Program Innovation, CGS	<i>Logan Ballroom</i>

2:45–3:45 p.m.	Innovative Solutions to Persistent Challenges	<i>Logan Ballroom</i>
	Focus: Research and insights from complete and advance stage IGE projects; guidance on research and implementation challenges. Dr. Karen Chen, Associate Professor, Department of Information Systems, University of Maryland, Baltimore County Dr. Hua Li, Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Texas A&M University Kingsville Dr. Angela Minichiello, Associate Professor, Engineering Education, Utah State University and Dr. Krishna Pakala, Associate Professor, Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, Boise State University (co-presentation) <i>Moderator:</i> Dr. Kathleen Ehm, Program Director, Directorate of STEM Education (EDU), National Science Foundation	
3:45–4:00 p.m.	Transition to Breakout Rooms	
4:00–4:45 p.m.	Challenge Labs in Breakout Rooms	
	Focus: Identifying challenges and solutions in IGE projects; identifying cross-cutting challenges and solutions across the IGE program.	
	Breakout A	<i>Gaston</i>
	<i>Facilitator:</i> Dr. Melissa F. Baird, Program Director, Directorate of STEM Education (EDU), National Science Foundation	
	Breakout B	<i>Whitman</i>
	<i>Facilitator:</i> Dr. Julia Kent, Vice President, Strategy and Program Innovation, CGS	
	Breakout C	<i>Deacon</i>
	<i>Facilitator:</i> Dr. Matthew Linton, Senior Manager, Programs and Publications, CGS	
4:45–5:30 p.m.	Hotel Check-In and Break	
5:30–7:00 p.m.	Poster Session and Networking Reception	<i>Bader Ginsburg</i>
	Poster presenters are assigned to one of two sessions within the networking period.	
	Session A: 6:00–6:30 p.m.	
	Session B: 6:30–7:00 p.m.	
7:00 p.m.	Poster Hall Breakdown	<i>Bader Ginsburg</i>

Day 2: Friday, October 16

8:00–9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast	<i>Ellington</i>
9:00–9:15 a.m.	Welcome and Charge for the Day Dr. Julia Kent, Vice President, Strategy and Program Innovation, CGS	<i>Logan Ballroom</i>
9:15–10:30 a.m.	Career Preparation and Student Success Pilots Focus: This session will bring together projects from <i>IGE Track 1: Career Preparation and Student Success Pilots</i> . These projects are designed to support innovations in graduate education within a single institution, focusing on workforce development that prepares the next generation of scientists and engineers for the full range of possible STEM career paths to advance the nation's STEM enterprise. Dr. Eric Burkholder, C. Harry Knowles Endowed Professor for Research in Physical Sciences Instruction and Associate Professor of Physics, Auburn University Dr. Elise Demeter, Director of Academic Research & Assessment, and Associate Graduate Faculty, University of North Carolina at Charlotte Dr. Mark Moritz, Professor and Wicked Scientist, Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University <i>Moderator:</i> Dr. Cynthia Fuhrmann, Associate Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biotechnology, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School and PI, Professional Development Hub (pd hub)	<i>Logan Ballroom</i>
10:30–10:45 a.m.	Coffee Break	<i>Logan Ballroom Foyer</i>
10:45–11:40 a.m.	Case Studies on Sustainability and Scaling in Breakout Rooms Focus: Using IGE project cases to explore what it takes to sustain, adapt, and scale promising innovations. Breakout A: <i>Case Study Presenter:</i> Dr. A. Kelly Lane, Associate Professor, Department of Biology Teaching and Learning, University of Minnesota <i>Project:</i> Comparing Rotations and Direct Admissions Pathways to Graduate Education in the Sciences: An Assessment of Policy and Practice <i>Facilitator:</i> Dr. Matthew Linton, Senior Manager, Programs and Publications, CGS Breakout B:	<i>Gaston</i> <i>Whitman</i>

Case Study Presenter: Dr. Susan Fullerton, Professor, Interim Chair of the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, University of Pittsburgh

Project: A Personalized Learning Model for STEM Graduate Education

Facilitator: Dr. Melissa F. Baird, Program Director, Directorate of STEM Education (EDU), National Science Foundation

Breakout C:

Deacon

Case Study Presenter: Dr. Russell Mailen, Associate Professor, Aerospace Engineering, Auburn University

Project: The Writing SySTEM: A Systemic Approach to Graduate Writing Instruction and Intervention

Facilitator: Dr. Julia Kent, Vice President, Strategy and Program Innovation, CGS

11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. **Cross-Pollination and Synthesis Session** *Logan Ballroom*

Focus: Sharing of ideas generated in previous session; identification of lessons and themes across groups.

Facilitator: Dr. Matthew Linton, Senior Manager, Programs and Publications, CGS

12:15–1:15 p.m. **Networking Lunch** *Ellington*

Tables based on ideas proposed by participants at registration.

1:15–2:15 p.m. **Systemic Interventions and Policies** *Logan Ballroom*

Focus: This session will bring together IGE projects from *IGE Track 2: Systemic Interventions and Policies*, which are designed to generate knowledge about the graduate education system and outcomes of systemic intervention and policies. IGE Track 2 projects may be implemented at different scales: within a field of study across multiple institutions and programs; across multiple fields of study within a single institution; or across multiple institutions and fields of study.

Dr. Karen High, Professor, Department of Engineering & Science Education, Clemson University

Dr. Joanna Schiffman, Director, Outlier Research & Evaluation, Data Science Institute, University of Chicago

Dr. Harold Stanislaw, Professor, Department of Psychology, CSU Stanislaus

Moderator: Dr. Bonnie Ferri, Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Education, Georgia Tech

2:15–2:45 p.m. **Recommendations for STEM Education Community** *Logan Ballroom*

Focus: Identification of recommendations for the STEM graduate education community.

Facilitator: Dr. Julia Kent, Vice President, Strategy and Program Innovation, CGS

2:45–3:00 p.m.

Concluding Remarks and Next Steps

Logan Ballroom

Dr. Chevelle Newsome, President, Council of Graduate Schools