



## **Introduction to the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS)**

The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS), a non-profit student-run organization founded in 1987, strives to connect graduate and professional students and their associations, to provide resources and support to graduate and professional students, and to advocate on students' behalf. To do so, NAGPS holds annual national and regional conferences, maintains corporate partnerships to benefit students, and meets with congressional representatives in Washington, D.C. regarding issues affecting graduate and professional students.

At the national and regional conferences, students present about best practices and current issues at their universities, and all attendees engage in roundtable discussions of issues. Issues addressed at the conferences include negotiating stipend increases, health and dental care, graduate families, activities, housing, working with the administration, handling budget cuts, advisor-advisee relations, communications, and engaging students. At the conferences' business meetings, members vote on the Association's national legislative platform, elect officers, and vote on any changes to the organization's governing documents. The conferences are an excellent place to build cross-university relationships that can lead to further collaboration throughout the year.

NAGPS also provides tangible benefits for its members, including discounted auto insurance through GEICO and health insurance through UnitedHealthcare. The Association is currently working on obtaining dental, vision, disability, life, and tuition insurance partnerships as well, among others.

In order to ensure our issues are known, NAGPS representatives travel twice a year to Washington, D.C. to speak with senators and congressmen about graduate and professional student issues. Currently, the Association advocates in D.C. on topics including graduate student stipend tax exemption, open access to publicly-funded published research, H1-B visa reform, and student loan reform. The Association's legislative platform evolves with student needs and is able to react rapidly to the ever-changing academic and legislative environments.

NAGPS is divided into five regions: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southcentral, and Western. The national board consists of each of the five regional chairs, the national President and Vice President, five Directors (Administration, Communications, Finance, Outreach, and Relations), and chairs of the four committees (Employment Concerns, International Student Concerns, Legislative Concerns, and Social Justice), as well as the immediate past president. The Association also has an advisory board, comprising a number of professionals with ties to the higher education community.

We hope you will strongly consider joining NAGPS in order to better the lives of the students you represent as well as those of graduate and professional students across the United States.

For more information, please contact the NAGPS Director of Outreach at [outreach@nagps.org](mailto:outreach@nagps.org).