

Building on Excellence

Beth Mayer-Davis, PhD
Dean, The Graduate School
Faculty Council
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Our Mission



The Graduate School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill supports excellence in graduate education and fosters civic engagement and economic growth in North Carolina and beyond. We **advocate**, **collaborate**, and **convene** to serve the nation's first public university, and to promote inclusive educational and professional development experiences for a diverse community of graduate students.



Academic Affairs

- Provides oversight for more than **160 graduate degrees with nearly 7,000 graduate students.**
- Oversees the establishment and implementation of academic policies and the final review of admissions and graduation requirements.
- Facilitates the creation of new academic programs and updates to existing curricula; approves and manages certificate programs for the campus.
- Conducts program reviews and data analyses for all undergraduate and graduate programs.
- Provides financial support to the graduate degrees it oversees, including tuition funds for full-time resident and non-resident students appointed as teaching or research assistants.
- Provides fellowship support through [The Royster Society of Fellows](#) and the [Weiss Urban Livability Fellowship Program](#), among other funding opportunities.



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Student Affairs

The Graduate School supports graduate and professional students through intentional programming and individual and group consultation.

Enhancing the student experience by fostering community and belonging for a diverse student body, and by advocating for student wellbeing as a foundation for student success.

Fall Wellness Festival held on October 25:

- Collaboration with GPSG (support from Student Wellness and the Carolina Union Activities Board)
- Resource Fair, Lunch, Massages, Yoga Sessions, Meditation/Quiet Room, Therapy Dogs, Art Activity
- 500+ attendees

Grad Café held 3x/semester:

- Free coffee and bagels
- 200-300 attendees/event

Spring Wellness Festival to be held February 6



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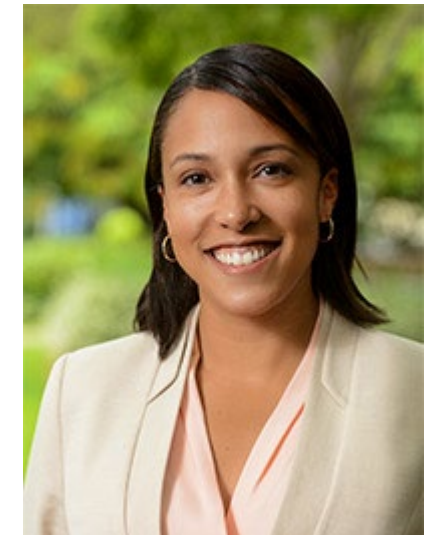
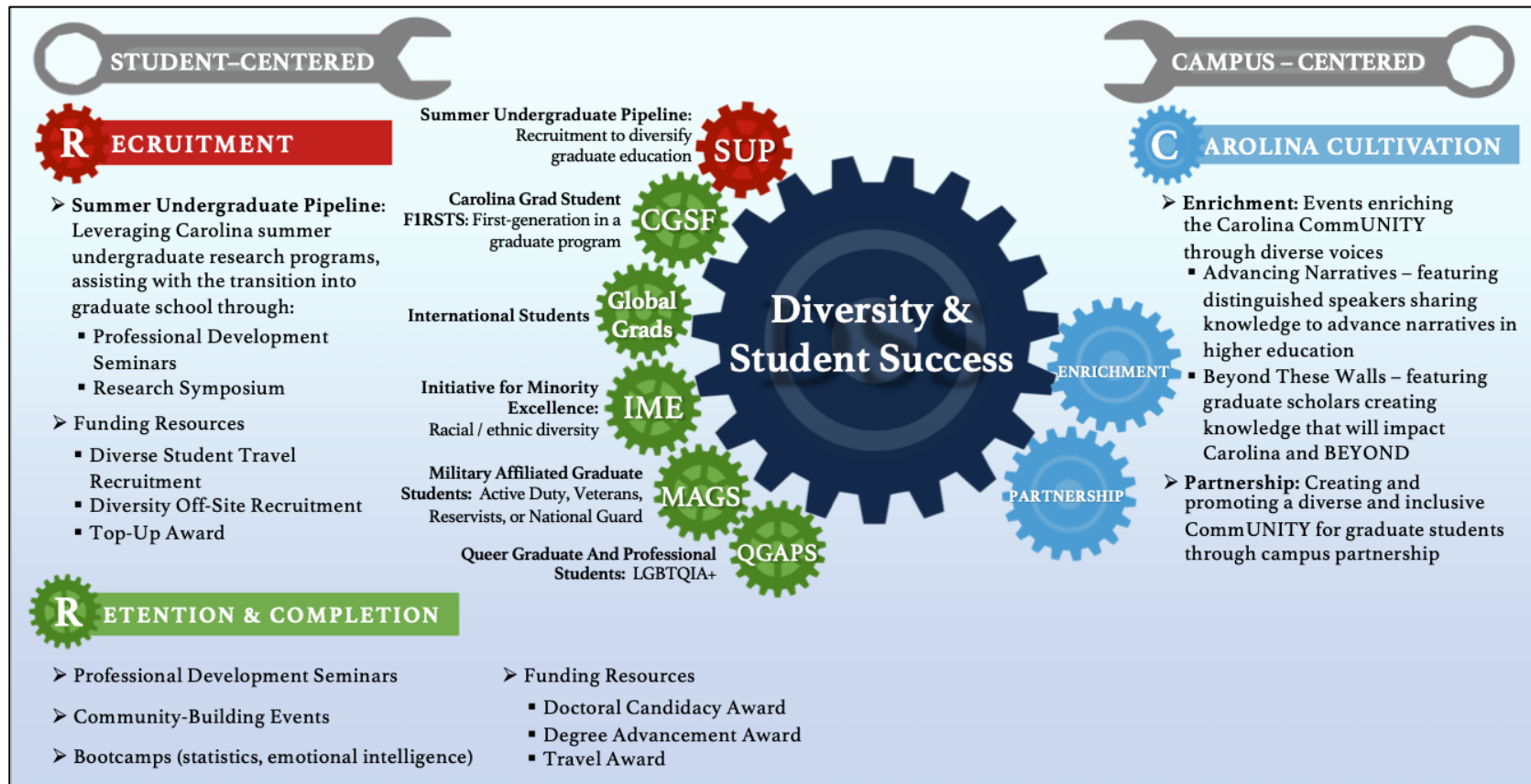
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Diversity and Student Success

- [The Diversity and Student Success program](#) offers a community for diverse students through programming and campus initiatives.



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CareerWell Professional Development



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- **[The CareerWell Professional Development program](#)** provides a range of training opportunities and resources, including courses, one-on-one consultations, and learning experiences inclusive of students across disciplines
- **[The Graduate Certificate in Innovation, Leadership and Management](#)**
- The interdisciplinary **[Master of Applied Professional Studies](#)**

Building on Excellence

Initiative #1: Enrolling for Excellence

Support academic excellence by collaborating with academic programs to identify high-priority admitted students and create a focused set of activities to increase the likelihood these students will enroll.

Initiative #2: Creating a Culture of Care

In collaboration with academic programs and units across campus, advocate for and support a University-wide framework to promote graduate student success and well-being so students can thrive from initial contact through graduation and beyond.

Initiative #3: Growing with North Carolina

Convene a pan-University discussion to collaboratively develop a graduate education enrollment growth plan that is pragmatic, fiscally responsible, and that employs multiple delivery formats.



1. Enrolling for Excellence

Initiative: Support academic excellence by collaborating with academic programs to identify high-priority admitted students and create a focused set of activities to increase the likelihood these students will enroll.

- Revised Slate survey to better understand student decline decisions
- Implementing updates to the graduate recruitment fellowships process:
 - Convened the first of a series of town halls for programs to introduce revisions to increase flexibility in the merit fellowship model
 - Soliciting feedback from programs to further meet their needs
- Recruited four programs to participate in pilot program to test interventions aimed at improving enrollment yield rates for high-priority applicants:
 - Developed a system in Slate to track high-priority applicants



2. Creating a Culture of Care

Initiative: In collaboration with academic programs and units across campus, advocate for and support a University-wide framework to promote graduate student success and well-being so students can thrive from initial contact through graduation and beyond.

- Current focus on graduate student caregivers
- Developed and distributed a survey at graduate orientation, fall wellness event, and email:
 - 1,584 out of 6,863 responses (23% response rate)
 - **948 (60%) identified as caregivers (as of 11/2/23)**
 - 294 caring for a minor (under 18)
 - 536 caring for an adult (18-64)
 - 169 caring for an older adult (65+)
- Developing a caregiver support group for Fall 2023; family-friendly events for Spring 2024
- Looking ahead to graduate student housing next year



3. Growing with North Carolina

Initiative: Convene a pan-University discussion to collaboratively develop a graduate education enrollment growth plan that is pragmatic, fiscally responsible, and that employs multiple delivery formats. The plan will involve an understanding of the rapidly growing, knowledge-based ecosystem that surrounds the University and the workforce needs of North Carolina, including but not limited to the areas of health care and technology.

- Drafting a white paper on NC workforce needs and projections
- Identifying ways to support master's students, including support for master's students in the healthcare delivery fields
 - NC Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS) Program
- Exploring potential partnerships with the NCWorks Commission
- Collaborating with the Associate Dean for Development to secure funding for "Bridge Beyond Carolina: An Experiential Learning Opportunity"



Coming Soon!



- **Carolina Graduate Student Experience** – charged by the Provost to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the overall graduate and professional student experience at Carolina.
- Five working groups focused on overall student wellbeing as well as research assistant and teaching assistant working conditions across campus
 - All working groups will attend to the full range of graduate student experiences, including international and online students, across master's and doctoral programs from STEM to the social sciences and arts and humanities
- Efforts will be led and managed by The Graduate School, in collaboration with units within the Office of the Provost, the Graduate and Professional Student Government, and key campus stakeholders.
- More to come in winter 2024!



Thank you!

