

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S ASSOCIATION
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UMass System-wide PSM degree program celebrates first anniversary

On January 21, the University of Massachusetts system PSM program conducted its second annual conference to highlight its initial success, update its coming plans, and generate additional support from its constituents. More than eighty senior administrators and faculty from the five UMass campuses, senior regional employer representatives, and national PSM advocates participated in the event.

The UMass PSM initiative received a start up grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Additional support has been contributed by UMass Online and the UMass campuses. The National Professional Science Master's Association has been closely involved with the development of the UMass PSM system. In particular, NPSMA executive director Stephen Lemire, founding president Bogdan Vernescu, board member Cynthia Bainton, and Sloan Foundation consultant Sheila Tobias were recognized at the conference for their assistance.

The event was kicked off with an emphasis of how the PSM programs are significant for economic development in Massachusetts by UMass Lowell provost Ahmed Abdelal, UMass system president Jack Wilson, and UMass Lowell chancellor Martin Meehan. The national view of the PSM was presented by Lemire, Tobias, and Don Langenberg, chancellor emeritus, university system of Maryland.

UMass Lowell vice provost for graduate education Don Pierson, who has been instrumental in the rapid development of the UMass PSM, and Susan Lawton, PSM planning coordinator outlined the scope of the programs being developed across the campuses. UMass is planning to roll out 15 PSM programs within the next year. They will primarily be in life sciences and environmental sciences.

To create a flexible system for students, with more options than would ordinarily be available on a single campus the professional (plus) courses are offered through UMass Online with the science core course offerings distinctive to each campus. The online capability creates a cost effective, sustainable plan for incorporating management knowledge and skills into the PSM programs.

The career services resource personnel on each campus are collaborating to exchange information and knowledge to enhance the internship opportunities for the PSM students as well as disseminating information regarding internships available through the Mass Life Sciences Internship Challenge Program and other area programs.

If you would like to learn more about UMass PSM program you may contact Susan Lawton at susan_lawton@uml.edu or (978)934-2299.



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