

Professional Science Master's Programs:
A University of Massachusetts Perspective
NASH Annual Meeting
April 2010

I am very pleased to be able to share with you the perspective that I bring as U Mass President.

UMASS is committed to facilitating a new era of collaboration in which higher education and industry work together as a united force to ensure growth and viability of the Commonwealth.

As President, I have emphasized the importance of our role in positioning the region to achieve success in scientific and technological innovation and to lead the nation in economic growth.

Our institutional success as a leader in higher education across the state is based on being recognized as one the most valued of organizations in relation to the region's economic competitiveness.

The PSM program represents one of UMass's most important and effective economic and workforce development initiatives of the past decade.

As a system, we have experienced the positive consequences of genuine collaboration. All of our campuses are participating – Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, and Worcester, and our award-winning distance learning division, UMassOnline. At each, the message is the same – UMass welcomes strong partnerships with industry and the private sector and is dedicating itself to helping to make them successful.

We are currently offering the PSM at all campuses in Marine Science – in Coastal and Ocean Administration, Science and Technology. At UMass Boston, we are offering the PSM in Environmental Science, and at UMass Lowell, in Biology – including Applied Biotechnology, Biosafety, Environmental Biotechnology, and Project Management for Life Sciences.

A new program is near completion across the system in Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology. Individual campuses are preparing to launch programs in Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation, Applied Physics and Geographical Information Systems, Bioinformatics, Clinical Lab Science, Forensic Chemistry, Health Physics, Radiological Science, and Industrial Mathematics.

The PSM initiative at UMass has been exceptionally strong because of the participation of our employer community. The Massachusetts Biotechnology Council has been a strong supporter of our systemwide PSM initiative from its inception.

Other supporters have included Boston Scientific, GeoMed Analytical, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including the Office of Coastal Zone Management and the Division of Marine Fisheries. The nationally distinguished Lloyd Center for the Environment has been another strong supporter, recognizing the contributions of the UMass PSM programs to key federal and state environmental issues.

When I travel around the state, which is often, the PSM is now on policy-makers' radar screen, and it is because of the clarity of the message it communicates that U Mass is committed to new partnerships for meeting the state's economic and workforce needs.

I offer one final and most fundamental recommendation to each of you as my colleagues – emulate the UMass model of collaboration. Leadership for successful collaboration can only come from the top. It is you and I, the CEOs of higher education who, hand-in-hand with the corporate and public sector leaders in our states, can transform the university so that it becomes a central instrument of economic and workforce development nationally. We need to do it and we need to do it now.

Thank you.