Graduate Education in a Competitive World

Debra W. Stewart

President of the Council of Graduate Schools

The message of this talk is that the capacity of American universities to sustain a leading role globally in graduate education hinges crucially on its capacity to continually improve the quality of our graduate programs, to ensure access of students globally to those programs, and to sustain strong leadership in graduate schools essential to drive the necessary changes.

In this talk Debra Stewart will explore the historical reasons behind the North American status in graduate education over the past fifty years; share some specific challenges faced there in light of the changing demographics, the globalizing talent market, the new millennial student values, and emerging understandings of accountability. She then discusses the vulnerabilities in the U.S. system in particular. She concludes with thoughts about conditions that will need to prevail for graduate education to prosper in North America, and in all countries and regions of the world, going forward.