



2500 MU Student Center  
Columbia, MO 65211  
gpc.missouri.edu

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Jesse W. Kremenak  
National Legislative Issues Coordinator  
Graduate Professional Council  
240-620-3131  
gpc.legislative@missouri.edu

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### **UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL LEADS NATIONWIDE CALL-CONGRESS EVENT**

[Columbia, Missouri] – The University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council (GPC) will host a Nationwide Call-Congress event on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 in the MU Student Center (Room 2205) from 9am-3pm. This initiative is part of the national GradsHaveDebt2 campaign, launched in conjunction with the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) in July 2013.

GradsHaveDebt2 is one of GPC's most notable successes. The campaign gives postgraduate students a voice in student loan conversations by educating legislators and the public about postgraduate student debt and interest rate inequality. The campaign gained the attention of legislators on Capitol Hill; within a week of its launch, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) quoted concerns raised by NAGPS through the GradsHaveDebt2 campaign on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

The Nationwide Call-Congress event will allow postgraduate students at MU to express concerns, share stories of personal impact, and urge Congressional action on student loan inequality. Simultaneously, postgraduate student associations nationwide will be hosting GradsHaveDebt2 Call-Congress events. This event is the first in a series of local, regional and national events. The campaign, which will continue into 2014, urges Members of Congress to pass new legislation that:

- Reduces interest rates and caps on federal student loans available to graduate-professional students
- Unifies the undergraduate and graduate rates to reverse the current inequalities
- Restores graduate-professional student eligibility for subsidized Stafford loans

Further information is available at [Facebook.com/GradsHaveDebt2](https://www.facebook.com/GradsHaveDebt2), including personal accounts from students at the University of Missouri and across the country discussing their struggles with postgraduate student debt.

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Founded in 1983, the Graduate Professional Council (GPC) is the official student government for all graduate, professional, post-baccalaureate, and post-doctoral students at the University of Missouri.

Founded in 1987, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) is a volunteer, student-run, national non-profit organization representing more than 600,000 graduate and professional students at over 90 institutions across the United States. NAGPS sustains a member network that connects graduate and professional students; shares resources; provides benefits and training; and advocates at the state, regional and national level to give a voice to all graduate and professional students.

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