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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL LEADS GradsHaveDebt2 NATIONAL MESSAGE-CONGRESS DAY

[Columbia, Missouri] –The University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council (GPC) will take part in a Message-Congress event on Tuesday, February 11, 2014. As a part of the national GradsHaveDebt2 campaign, graduate and professional students at the University of Missouri will join fellow students around the nation to message, post, or ‘tweet’ federal lawmakers about their staggering debt burden and the interest rate inequality facing postgraduate students.

GPC and the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) launched the campaign last summer in response to recent legislations that increases the financial burdens on students pursuing post-baccalaureate degrees. This event continues a series of local, regional and national events. During a prior event this past December, students across the country made over 860 phone calls and contacted roughly 1/3 of Congress, urging legislators to act on postgraduate student loan inequity.

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.

National Message-Congress Day will allow graduate and professional students at the University of Missouri to express concerns, share stories of personal impact, and urge Congressional action on student loan inequality. The campaign urges Members of Congress to:

- Reunify** the undergraduate and graduate rates to reverse the current inequalities and
- Reinstate** graduate-professional students’ 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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