



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katie Steen
Director of National Affairs
Graduate Professional Council
816-645-1189
gpc.legislative@missouri.edu

April 1, 2016

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

[Columbia, Missouri] –The University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council (GPC) will host a National Call-Congress Day event on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 in the MU Student Center (1st floor) between 10am-4pm. As part of the national GradsHaveDebt2 campaign, graduate and professional students at the University of Missouri will join fellow students around the nation to call federal lawmakers about their overwhelming student loan debt, the interest rate inequality facing graduate and professional students, and to urge legislators to stop profiting off students.

GPC and the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) launched the campaign in 2013 in response to legislation that increased the financial burdens on students pursuing post-baccalaureate degrees. This campaign continues as a series of local, regional, and national events. Over the past few years, students across the country have made roughly 3,000 phone calls and contacted more than half of Congress, urging legislators to act on postgraduate student loan inequalities.

GradsHaveDebt2 is one of GPC's most notable successes. The campaign gives post-baccalaureate students a voice in the student loan conversation by educating legislators and the public about postgraduate student debt, interest rate inequalities, and the billions of dollars the government profits off students.

National Call-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 works to motivate members of Congress to:

- Stop** the government from profiting off students,
- Reunify** the undergraduate and graduate student loan interest rates, and
- Reinstate** the in-school interest subsidy for graduate-professional students.

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.

###

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.

-End-