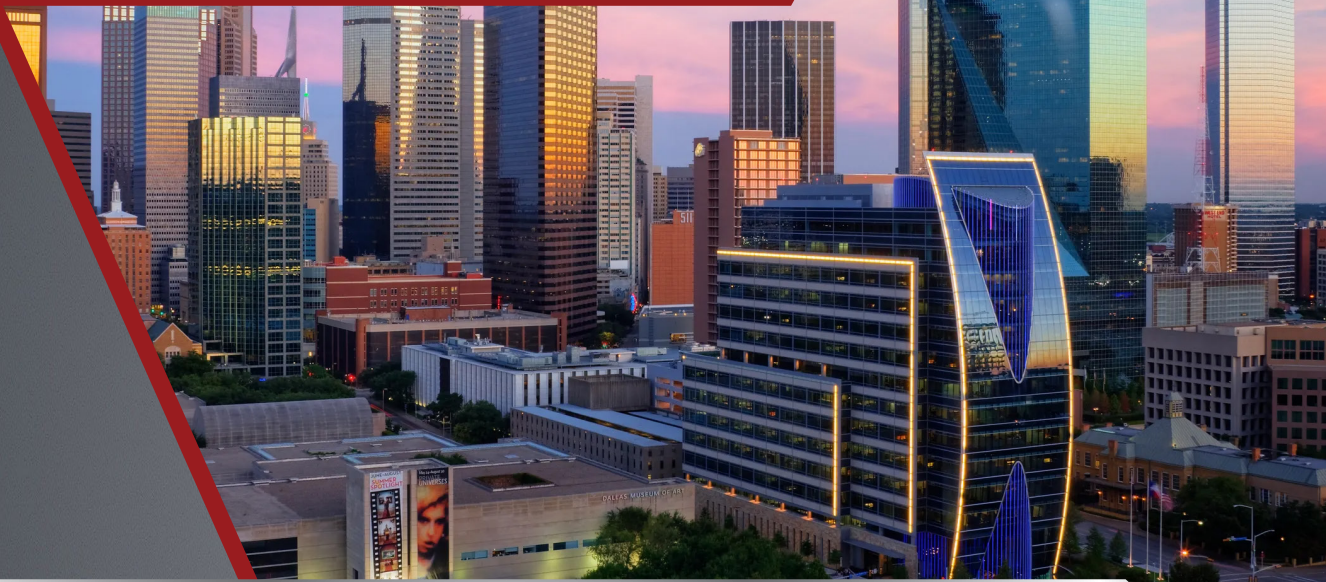


# 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## COUNCIL OF HISTORICALLY BLACK GRADUATE SCHOOLS (CHBGS) DALLAS, TEXAS

**MARCH 18-19, 2025**

held at the...

**THE HIGHLAND DALLAS,  
CURIO COLLECTION BY HILTON**

5300 E Mockingbird Ln,  
Dallas, TX 75206

### THEME

“Navigating the Academic Frontier: Advancing Graduate Education in a Changing Landscape”

### 2026 CONFERENCE

**Baton Rouge, LA**  
February 18- 19, 2026

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We are proud of our committed and diverse staff driven by our common goal to create lasting wellbeing for community

**DR. CLAY GLOSTER, JR.**  
**PRESIDENT**  
Dean of the  
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Term Expires 2025

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Term Expires 2027

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PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
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Term Expires 2025

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Term Expires 2027

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Term Expires 2027

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Term Expires 2026

**DR. NATASHA STUBBS**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
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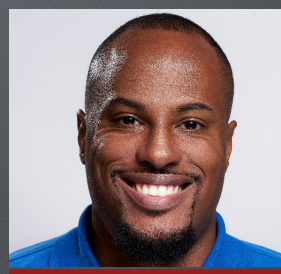
Term Expires 2028

**DR. MARY OWENS SOUTHALL**  
**IMMEDIATE  
PAST PRESIDENT**  
Retired Dean  
Graduate School



Term Expires 2025

**MR. BRIAN WAYNE**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
Graduate Programs Recruiter  
Vice Chair  
ECSU Staff Senate  
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Elizabeth State University  
brwayne@ecsu.edu



Term Expires 2027

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### Jennifer Gerz-Escandón

Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Research at the University of North Carolina

Since 2021, Dr. Jennifer Gerz-Escandón has served as Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Research at the University of North Carolina (UNC) System Office. Within the Academic Affairs Division, Dr. Gerz-Escandón leads the implementation of UNC Board of Governors policies on graduate academic program planning and approval and manages two system-wide research initiatives: the Research Opportunities Initiative and the Undergraduate Research Program Award. Her core responsibilities also involve managing annual sponsored programs and research reporting for the \$2B UNC System research enterprise and supporting key UNC System affinity groups including the Chief Research Officers, the Graduate Council, and the Undergraduate Research Council.

Prior to joining the UNC System Office, Gerz-Escandón was associate dean for Interdisciplinary Education and Fellowship Programs in The Graduate School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In The Graduate School, she was responsible for developing budgets, implementing funding policies, and leading faculty review panels for more than a dozen master's and doctoral research fellowship and award programs. In addition to serving as chair of the Fellowship Committee of The Graduate School Administrative Board, Gerz-Escandón oversaw interdisciplinary education and professional development activities.

During her nearly 20 years in higher education, Gerz-Escandón has held administrative and faculty roles at public and private universities. Starting her career as a visiting assistant professor in the Political Science Department at the University of Evansville in Indiana, she was soon offered and accepted a tenure track position, and subsequently appointed director of International Studies. At Lynn University in Florida, she served as chair and associate professor in the International Relations Program, and, later, director of the Center for International Programs and Services. As a visiting faculty member at universities in Japan and the United Kingdom, she enjoyed teaching interdisciplinary courses and was recognized by Lynn University students as Teacher of the Year. Currently, Dr. Gerz-Escandón is an adjunct faculty teaching in the

graduate program on Higher Education Administration at North Carolina Central University.

More recently, as director of National Scholarships and Fellowships for the Honors College at Georgia State University, she focused on expanding access to undergraduate research experiences by supporting the Undergraduate STEM Research Society. Gerz-Escandón is the recipient of a Fulbright International Education Administrator grant to Germany and a German Academic Exchange Service grant. She is honored to have served as a national reviewer for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute graduate and public policy fellowships and the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund. In 2020, she was selected as an IAspire Leadership Academy Fellow – a National Science Foundation-funded, APLU-led initiative.

Gerz-Escandón holds a bachelor's degree in government from Georgetown University, a diploma in international relations from the University of the West Indies, and a master's degree and doctorate in international relations from the University of Miami.



**DR. JENNIFER GERZ-ESCANDÓN**

DAY  
ONE

55th Annual Conference

# Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools

The Highland Dallas, Curio Collection by Hilton | Dallas, TX

THEME

“Navigating the Academic Frontier: Advancing Graduate Education in a Changing Landscape”

Tuesday  
March 18, 2025

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration (**Opus Landing**)

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Executive Committee/Business Meeting (**Maestro**)

Agenda

Welcome

Dr. Clay Gloster, Jr., President

Minutes

Dr. Caterina Bristol, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

Tyisha Hathorn, Treasurer

President’s Report

Dr. Clay Gloster, Jr., President

President’s Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Leisure/Networking Activity Opportunity for the Deans

6:30 p.m. Dinner and Presentation for CHBGS Members and Invited Guests  
(**Opus III & IV**)

*Navigating the Academic Frontier with the Assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)*

Joe Frazier

CEO/CIO – BizNetz, Inc.



UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME



DAY  
TWO

55th Annual Conference

# Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools

The Highland Dallas, Curio Collection by Hilton | Dallas, TX

THEME

“Navigating the Academic Frontier: Advancing Graduate Education in a Changing Landscape”

Wednesday  
March 19, 2025

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Registration (Opus Landing)**

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast (*Sponsored by Educational Testing Service - ETS*) **(Opus III & IV)**  
*ETS Presentation*

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Break

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Presidential Welcome **(Opus II)**  
*Dr. Clay Gloster, Jr.*  
Dean, Graduate College  
North Carolina A&T State University

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Welcome from the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) **(Opus II)**  
*Dr. Suzanne Ortega*  
President, Council of Graduate Schools

Welcome from the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS)  
*Dr. Jon Hakkila*  
President, CSGS  
University of Alabama at Huntsville

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Keynote Address **(Opus II)**  
*Collectively Extraordinary: Leveraging the University of North Carolina System to Strengthen Graduate Education*  
*Jennifer Gerz-Escandón, Ph.D.*  
Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Research  
University of North Carolina System

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break

- 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Panel Discussion (**Opus II**)  
**Session Title: The CGS Global South Initiative: Building Partnerships with Universities in the Global South**  
*Panelists:*  
*Dr. Janet C. Rutledge, Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)*  
*Dr. Mark Garrison, Morgan State University*  
*Dr. Joseph R. Oppong, University of North Texas*
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Luncheon and Presentation (Opus III & IV)**
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Presentation (**Opus II**)  
**Building Shields, Not Targets: Proactive Risk Management for Deans**  
**Sheena J. Cobrand, JD**  
*Associate Vice Chancellor/Deputy General Counsel*  
*North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University*
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Presentation (**Opus II**)  
**Enhancing the Graduate School Application Experience: Lessons from Notre Dame**  
**Nyrée McDonald, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Dean, Graduate Enrollment Management/ The Graduate School*  
*University of Notre Dame*
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting (**Opus II**)  
 Agenda  
 Approval of Minutes  
 Treasurer’s Report – Dr. Tyisha Hathorn  
 Audit Committee Report  
 Report from the Nominating Committee  
 Old Business  
 New Business  
 Remarks by Dr. Clay Gloster, Jr., President  
 Installation of the New Executive Board/Committee Members
- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. CHBGS and CSGS Joint Welcoming Dinner (**Moody Atrium**)



**55TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools



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