September 17, 2022

Dear Participants,

It is my distinct pleasure and honor to welcome you to Mississippi State University and our beautiful campus here in Starkville as you join us for the GEM Getting Ready for Advanced Degrees (GRAD) Lab symposium.

You are here today because mentors interested in your development as a student and future professional know that graduate education is a national imperative, not only for the individual seeking an advanced career, but also for the United States and the nation’s future as a leader in innovation and competitor in the global economy.

Earning a Master’s and Doctoral degree is especially important for those aspiring to positions of influence in academia, industry, and government. Our mission is to ensure that those ethnic groups historically underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) – American Indians, African Americans, and Hispanic Americans – have every opportunity to achieve the highest educational goals and realize both personal and professional success.

The GEM GRAD Lab also provides an opportunity for you to build community and collegiality with your peers at other institutions. Hopefully, the relationships you begin developing at this symposium will continue through completion of your undergraduate studies, then to graduate school and beyond.

To that end, we are privileged to host you on our campus for the 2022 GEM GRAD Lab. We encourage you to take full advantage of all the opportunities provided here by Mississippi State University and GEM. Enjoy the experience and best wishes as you pursue your scholarly endeavors!

Sincerely,

Peter L. Ryan, PhD

Executive Vice Provost