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Journeys in Graduate Study:
Exploring Ways to Improve the Graduate Student Experience

A surprisingly high proportion of doctoral students never complete their degree. Why do students leave? Is some attrition okay? The Graduate College at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is sponsoring an event to explore doctoral attrition and to address what faculty and students can do to proactively improve the graduate school experience. "Journeys in Graduate Study: Exploring Ways to Improve the Graduate Student Experience," will take place on Monday, February 20, 2006. This event is made possible in part by a grant from the Council of Graduate Schools PhD Completion Project (<http://www.phdcompletion.org/>).

The event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Chris M. Golde, a Senior Scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, where she is research director for the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate. For the last decade her research has focused on doctoral education, particularly the experiences of doctoral students. She served as the lead author of the 2001 report of the national Survey of Doctoral Education and Career Education, available online www.phd-survey.org. She is also co-editor, with George Walker, of *Envisioning the Future of Doctoral Education. Preparing Stewards of the Discipline*, published in late 2005.

Additional discussion items will include proactive faculty mentoring and how graduate students can drive their own success. The symposium will take place from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Illini Rooms A, B, and C of the Illini Union in Urbana, Illinois. Advanced registration is requested; further information about the symposium program and speakers is available at www.grad.uiuc.edu. This event is free and is open to all University of Illinois graduate students, faculty, staff, postdocs, and alumni, as well as interested members of the community.

For more information, visit
<http://www.grad.uiuc.edu/CareerServices/Symposium/SymposiumHome.html>

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