The Graduate School is pleased to announce another round of PhD Enhancement Funds for academic year 2016-2017. Specifically, $180K from enrollment growth tuition revenues has been allocated to support ten (10) additional GTA lines. Each line will have an $18,000 AY stipend with a requirement of 19 hours of instruction per week.

The intended purpose of these additional GTA lines is to help The Graduate School and departments address enrollment growth, increased PhD productivity, while enhancing the academic preparation of PhD candidates. It is anticipated that the focus of the funding will be to a limited number of departments, with those departments potentially receiving GTA lines for more than one year.

A PhD Enhancement Fund GTA award is not renewable for any PhD candidate who previously received the award. Thus, any current or past awardee cannot be funded again. For example, the same department can receive funds for the same instructional support, but the funds must go to a different student. Using the funds to support the same student for more than one year will result in the department losing the funds.

A formal proposal is required from each department interested in procuring one or more of these GTA lines. Each request must include a clearly stated rationale that addresses the following items:

1. How the lines will lead to increased PhD production for a specific doctoral program.

2. Justify how the department will use the additional GTA lines, resulting in both the recruitment of high-quality doctoral students and increased productivity in a department's PhD program.

3. Describe how the GTA will help a department accomplish its teaching mission, in ways that also will provide PhD candidates with a quality teaching experience. For example, a GTA whose responsibilities involve delivery of course content as an instructor are preferable to a GTA whose primary responsibility is to grade assignments.

4. What the impact would be on existing faculty workloads with respect to teaching and/or research.

5. How the future academic appointments of the GTA award recipient will be covered in subsequent terms/years.

6. A department requesting a renewal of support is required to submit a report to The Graduate School that provides evidence of both the availability of funding for existing lines and on documented progress relative to the stated goals of the past proposal. For example, evidence may be reflected in an increase in the number of PhD candidates in the department over time, peer-reviewed publications, and the number of proposals submitted/awarded.

The proposal must be submitted electronically to Melis Edwards in The Graduate School (melisenda.edwards@montana.edu) by March 2, 2016. A copy of the proposal also must be sent to your academic dean. The University Graduate Council will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Dean of The Graduate School.

Allocation of the GTA lines will be completed by April 6, 2016, which will assist department recruiting efforts.