RAISING FUNDS FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION

THE CHALLENGE

Graduate students are at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to financial support as there are few federal programs to fund graduate education. State resources are available for teaching assistantships, and research grants/contracts provide funding for research assistantships. Unfortunately, these resources vary widely each year.

HOW CAN A DONOR HELP?

1) They can make a gift directly to The Graduate School. Current Graduate School funding priorities include:

   • **Fellowships** – These merit-based fellowships will be available to outstanding graduate students from all colleges at Montana State University. The ability to provide fellowships will help Montana State University continue to attract outstanding graduate students.
     $110-$120K per fiscal year. This would provide funding for 5 students at $22-24K per fiscal year.

   • **Travel Awards** – These awards will provide funding to students presenting their research findings at national conferences. Travel awards offer students an opportunity to promote their research, to begin developing a network of contacts within their field, and to start building a strong vitae, thus increasing their likelihood for employment after graduation. Offering travel awards also is an excellent way to showcase Montana State University and recruit potential graduate students to the university.
     $18K per year would provide 15 students each with $1,200 for travel/registration expenses.

   • **Competitive Research Grants** – These grants will support graduate research activities that relate to a student’s research/scholarly objectives.
     $30K per year for a minimum of 15 students (maximum award size of $2K per student).

2) When making a gift to a specific department or college, they can designate all or part of it to graduate education and graduate fellowships.

3) They can help Montana State University dream big by making a $10-12 million gift to name The Graduate School.