Innovative Graduate Student Recruitment Grant

Description

As Texas A&M strives for recognition as a top ten public university in the nation by the year 2020, one key objective to meet that goal is ensuring that our student body represents, in enrollment and graduation, the richness and diversity of Texas and the world, especially in terms of gender, race and ethnicity, and socioeconomic factors. Over the past fifteen years, the university has directed considerable resources to attracting high quality, diverse graduate students. However, for some groups, only small population increases were realized, and some populations even decreased. For example, over the past ten years, the university has only experienced minimal growth (10.2% to 12.4%) in the total percentage of African-American and Hispanic American graduate students.

As such, the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS) announces grants to support innovative initiatives focused on recruitment of graduate students which advance university enrollment objectives.

Amount

The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies will make available up to $250,000 in funds for this initiative. These are local funds and must be spent before August 31, 2016 for activities occurring in the 2015-16 academic year. Proposals may request a maximum of $50,000 (college-wide) or $25,000 (department-wide and others), with amounts aligned with the number of prospective graduate student participants.

Eligibility

Faculty, staff, or graduate students are eligible to submit proposals either as individual faculty, group of faculty, academic units (colleges, departments), interdisciplinary degree or research programs, graduate student organizations, or other groups as relevant.

Submission Guidelines

Proposals may be submitted by email to ogaps-award-admin@tamu.edu. They should include the following:

- Cover Form
- A list of faculty, staff, and students supporting the initiative
- Up to 5 pages, double-spaced proposal narrative including description of initiative, proposed number of prospective student participants, proposed outcome, target institutions (if applicable), summary of all current recruiting activities, etc.
- A paragraph describing how the project will advance the university’s enrollment objectives
- A 1-page itemized budget including justification and documentation of matching funds, if required. Acceptable categories include travel and programming expenses related to prospective graduate student recruitment. Salaries are not an eligible category.
- Proposals advancing university diversity goals are highly encouraged.
- Matching funds requirements: 20% for college-wide initiatives, 10% for department-wide, and 5% for interdisciplinary degree or research programs. Matching funds should be actual dollars supporting the initiative (staff or faculty in-kind support is not an acceptable matching expense).
- Initiatives must include a minimum of five (5) prospective graduate student participants. Efforts serving fewer prospective students will continue to be addressed with the OGAPS Prospective Graduate Student Travel Grant.
- Submissions must be approved by:
  - Dean (or designee), Department head (or designee), or Interdisciplinary Program chair for college, department, or interdisciplinary program initiatives, respectively
  - Faculty member for individual faculty initiatives
  - Lead faculty member for faculty team initiatives
  - President of graduate student organization and Advisor for graduate student organization initiatives.

We are looking to advance additional efforts with the grant funding. If your proposed activity is a reoccurring event, please provide details on how the grant funds will be utilized to enhance current efforts. For example, are you proposing to include additional participants, target different students, development new partnerships, etc.?

**Review Criteria and Process**

Faculty and staff in the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies will review proposals. There will be two competition rounds. Round 1 deadline is Thursday, October 8, 2015 and Round 2 deadline is Tuesday, December 1, 2015.

**Post-Funding Requirements**

A one page summary describing the outcomes and impact of the initiative should be submitted no later than 60 days after the initiative is completed. Also provide a list of prospective students with information for inclusion in the OGAPS recruiting database.

**Further Information**

For further information and questions, please contact Dr. Shannon Walton, Director of Recruitment and Student Success, Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, shannon@tamu.edu.