



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS®

Neal J. Smatresk, *President*

October 18, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: All University Students, Faculty and Staff

FROM: Neal J. Smatresk, President and O. Finley Graves, Provost

SUBJECT: Improved travel funding grant for graduate students

As you likely know, one of our overarching priorities is to strengthen our research base to cement our status as a Carnegie-ranked R1, or Tier One, research university.

One important factor is to foster a strong graduate student population. We are focused more than ever on investing in our graduate students because they are the next generation of researchers and scholars. We know that the investments we make in their education will help them graduate and become productive researchers and scholars.

We're proud to announce that we've revamped the travel grants program for graduate students and — most importantly — increased funding to more than double what was previously available. The new program gives more graduate students an opportunity to get more funds per trip to share their research and establish themselves in their field. It also establishes stronger criteria so that everyone understands how best to prioritize travel grant requests.

Starting in January 2017, eligible graduate students can apply for travel grants based on a required 1:1 match from a college or department with a maximum \$500 match for a total of \$1,000.

Eligibility will be dependent on a point scale that takes into account:

- GPA
- Faculty evaluation
- Applicant's statement on importance of meeting/artistic venue
- Publication/Professional Development potential

Priority is given to those who have not previously received a travel grant. Other factors that will be taken into account include:

- Type of presentation
- Preference to those who are lead authors, creators and featured performers/exhibitors
- Scope or significance of the meeting or conference

Office of the President

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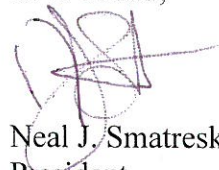
We've made these changes because we understand the importance of giving graduate students the opportunity to attend conferences to share their research, collaborate and network. This makes them stronger researchers and scholars, which in turn helps our faculty and builds our university's overall research profile.

This is the result of a collaborative effort by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs, the Office of Research and Innovation, the Office of Finance and Administration, the Toulouse Graduate School and the Graduate Student Council. We want to thank everyone involved for working hard to make this a reality.

Victor Prybutok, the vice provost of the Toulouse Graduate School, will meet with key groups in the next few weeks to explain the changes. If you have any questions, you can contact Joseph Oppong, associate dean of the Toulouse Graduate School, at Joseph.Oppong@unt.edu.

Thanks for all that you do support our graduate students and to help UNT be a great research university.

UNT Proud,



Neal J. Smatresk
President



O. Finley Graves
Provost

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