Title: Enhancement of Support for Graduate Student Research and Creative Projects

Initiative Description, including statement of purpose and anticipated outcomes:
Currently, the Graduate School awards approximately $30,000 to graduate students annually to support their research and creative projects. The awards are currently capped at $1000 per award. Because of demand for the program, the Graduate School increased the allocation from existing resources from $20,000 to $30,000 a year ago. We plan to maintain this level of funding, even though it makes for very thin budgets elsewhere. This increase was important as it meant that more students could receive an award and more awards could be more fully funded. The Graduate School is not financially in a position for increase the allocation further even though the need remains for more awards and for a larger allocation per award. As step one, we seek funds to move the maximum per award from $1000 to $1500 while maintain the current number of awards. As step two, we would like to double the number of students receiving the awards. As step three, we would like to move the maximum award to $2000. Over a six-year plan, this would double both the number of awards given and the size of the awards. While some Graduate students do write proposals to outside funding agencies to support their work, not all fields have outside funding opportunities. Often, the students personally fund at lease some of their work, increasing their personal debt and possibly lengthening their time to degree. All students should have the same opportunities toward degree completion. We consider this project to be part of a larger and longer-term plan for graduate student support, which includes recruiting, retention, and advancement components.

What University units (depts., colleges, etc.) will be involved?
All departments with a Graduate program may be impacted as all graduate students are eligible for the awards: Accounting, Anthropology, Biology, Business Administration, Chemistry, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Computer Science, Educational Leadership, Elementary Education, English, Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Geology, History, Human Services and Rehabilitation, Kinesiology, Mathematics, Music, Psychology, and Secondary Education”.

How does the initiative support the University Mission and Strategic Plan?
Supporting our graduate students expands access to a rigorous graduate education, builds upon our strengths, and meets the needs of the State of Washington.

Are there potential partnerships with external organizations/institutions?
Some fields have agencies that support graduate student research, often times, as part of large faculty research awards. The National Science Foundation is an example of an outside agency that funds both faculty and student research. Other recent examples include: the Phycological Society of America, Northwest Scientific Organization, Evolving Earth Foundation, the American Council for International Education, Claude C. Albritton Junior Award, and various private foundations, professional societies, and federal and state agencies.

Anticipated new positions needed to implement the initiative:

Faculty: N/A
Staff: N/A
Graduate Students (supported): N/A

Space needs (boldface one; attach note from Space Administration):
- Existing space is sufficient
- Existing space will be sufficient after modification
- New space may be required

New equipment or other one-time costs: N/A

Recurring operating costs: $15,000 for Step 1. Step 2 would require $45,000. Step 3 would cost an additional $30,000. One-time dollars could meet the need for these as well since the funding cycles are relatively short.

Estimated timeline for implementation: Larger awards and increased number of awards could be implemented almost immediately. The main funding cycle is in Spring Quarter. One-time funds could be used as the award cycles are relatively short.

Potential funding sources (boldface all that apply; attach notes from University Advancement and University Relations)
- State operating budget (decision package)
- New enrollments (tuition-based)
- External Education (fee-based)
- Reallocation
- Federal Support (agency: _______)
- Grants
- Partnerships (organizations/institutions: _______)
- Private Funds
- Other (please specify)