**Title: Support for Graduate Student Conference Travel**

Initiative Description, including statement of purpose and anticipated outcomes:
Graduate Students are encouraged to develop quality scholarly work and present at Regional and National Conferences. Historically, the Graduate School has worked to cover transportation costs for select student attending significant conferences in their field, but could only fund a small percentage of those who apply. In addition, the fund which the Graduate School drew upon for this initiative is growing smaller with each allocation, now down to just over $17,000. Additionally, the fund is limited to only travel expenses, and we have students with other expenses such as lodging and meals. Supporting Graduate Student research and professional development would help us recruit and retain quality Graduate students and provide Graduate students a robust academic experience to help them in their professional or academic career.

What University units (depts., colleges, etc.) will be involved?
Potentially all departments with a Graduate program could be impacted, including 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?
Serve as a model for institutional effectiveness, innovation, diversity, and sustainability; Foster and promote life-long learning and success in an ever-changing world; Apply Western's expertise and collaborative approach to scholarship, creativity, and research in ways that strengthen communities beyond the campus.

Are there potential partnerships with external organizations/institutions?
Potential partnership with the Western Foundation to assist in building the travel fund.

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:
Recurring operating costs: $10,000

Estimated timeline for implementation: FY 2017

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)