Graduate Student Support Award

This one time Graduate Student Support award is a non-competitive award that offers up to $200 to eligible graduate students to assist with the cost of books and software. The purpose of this new award is to support the academic development and well being of Kent State University's graduate student population. Due to COVID-19 and the respective temporary suspension of University sponsored travel, GSS is unable to assist graduate students with professional and academic development by providing funding for travel. This award was constructed in an effort to continue to support graduate student success during these trying times. Funding that is usually allocated to the ITA has been allocated for this award and will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis to graduate students. Students who did not receive the 2020 Fall Book Award will have priority to apply for this award, followed by a rolling application period for all students until funding for this award is depleted.

Who is eligible?

Full and part-time graduate students whose departments are in good standing with GSS:
- See bylaws for regulations on departmental "good standing."
- Students are eligible to receive one award during the spring 2021 semester.

What does this award fund?

Book expenses that relate to graduate student success in their program. This includes but is not limited to:

- Textbooks for classes
- Books relating to research topics or professional development
- Mental health books (find examples here: https://positivepsychology.com/mental-health-books/)
- E-book versions of books for purposes described above

Software expenses related to graduate student success in their program. This includes but is not limited to:

- Software necessary for class work or research (e.g. statistical software, reference manager). This award can be used to purchase Kent State e-academy software at a discounted rate, but is not intended to be used for software already provided (e.g. Microsoft Office).
- Examples include Adobe and Matlab.

What are the requirements for the Graduate Student Support Award?

To receive this award, eligible graduate students must complete the following:
- Award application survey, found here.
- A paragraph to single page, 12pt. font, double spaced pdf. explanation of how the book(s) and/or software(s) you are requesting funding for will benefit you and promote your success in your graduate program (1 page max to cover all item(s) being purchased).
- Your spring semester schedule of classes from Flashline indicating the number of credit hours you are enrolled in.

Stipulations:
- Anyone who received the Fall 2020 Book Award can apply for this award, but applications will be placed on a waitlist until January 25th, 2021 and will be reviewed in the order received after applications from graduate students who did not receive the Fall 2020 Book Award are reviewed.
- The award can be used for multiple books/software as long as you explain the purpose of each in promoting your success in your program. For example, you can request funding for a textbook for a class, and a software package and receive up to $200 in support.
- **You MUST complete a post-award survey and submit your respective receipts** within two months of submitting the award letter.

- Applications will be reviewed by the GSS Executive Board and/or Graduate Student Support Award Committee for completeness and reasonableness and award letters will be emailed within two weeks of application submission.
- Once the allocated funding for the award is depleted, applicants will be placed on a wait list. If the senate decides to allocate more funds to the award, applications on the waitlist will be reviewed in the order received.
- International students must submit a tax form along with their signed book award letter.

What do I do if my application is funded?
- Sign and submit your award letter to Jordyn Stoll at jstoll7@kent.edu to receive upfront funding as soon as possible.
- Ensure you have BankMobile set up to receive your funds once released from your Bursar's account. Please note, any prior balance on your Bursar's account may absorb your award funds. This is an issue that the executive board is working on resolving. In the meantime, if you are affected by this, you can request an extension of your post award survey submission date by contacting Jordyn Stoll at jstoll7@kent.edu.
- Make a PDF of receipts and submit them in the post award survey within one month after you receive your award letter. You should receive your funding via direct deposit within two weeks of submitting your award letter. Please contact the Vice Executive Chair, Jordyn Stoll, at jstoll7@kent.edu if you are unable to take the survey, or if you do not receive your funding within two weeks of submitting your award letter.