To: Graduate Program Directors and Department Heads

From: Carol W. Shanklin, Dean of the Graduate School

Date: January 12, 2016

Subject: Presidential Doctoral Scholarship Program

I am pleased to announce that the Graduate School is accepting nominations for the Presidential Doctoral Scholarship Program for the 2016-2017 academic year. This scholarship program is initiated to recruit top candidates whose research will be in one of the research strength areas at K-State and involve collaboration among faculty and graduate student colleagues. The goal of the program is to increase the competitiveness of program’s graduate assistantship packages. The program is very competitive. Only four ($7,500) new scholarships, renewable for a second year, will be awarded for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Admission recommendations must be submitted to the Graduate School prior to submission of the individual’s application. The date the admission recommendation was submitted to the Graduate School must be noted on the application. Programs should nominate their most outstanding applicants for this scholarship program. The following applicants are eligible to be nominated: U.S. citizens, permanent residents, international, and current K-State undergraduates. Programs are encouraged to nominate applicants from underrepresented groups.

Programs may nominate applicants for both the Presidential Doctoral and the Timothy Donoghue Graduate Scholarships, however students will be eligible for only one scholarship. Selections for the Presidential Doctoral Scholarship will be made first due to the amount of the scholarship and the limited number of scholarships being awarded. The number of scholarships awarded to individual graduate programs will be limited.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must be conducting interdisciplinary research as part of their doctoral program. All interdisciplinary research will be considered. Priority will be given to interdisciplinary research in the following areas:
  - Water resources/water quality
  - Energy
  - Food and Feed Safety
  - Infectious Diseases–Select Agent
  - Nanomaterial and supramolecular synthesis
  - Genomics/Lipodomics/Proteomics
  - Global Food Systems

  Note: Admission recommendation must be submitted to the Graduate School prior to consideration of nominee.

- Students must be appointed on a .5 FTE assistantship each semester the scholarship is effective.
FUNDING GUIDELINES:

- Funding will be limited for each graduate program. A strong justification explaining why the applicant is being nominated must be provided for each applicant. The nomination letter should designate which research area the student will be involved, describe how the applicant will be engaged in interdisciplinary research, and identify faculty on the research team. If a program is submitting multiple nominations, the candidates should be ranked.

- Students are eligible to receive a $7,500 scholarship per academic year. Scholarships are renewable for a second year upon re-nomination by the graduate program and meeting the guidelines noted below.

NOMINATION PROCEDURES:

- Submit nomination form to presscholarship@ksu.edu by February 12, 2016.

- Nominations will be reviewed after the February 12 deadline. Decision notifications will be sent the week of February 22-26, 2016.

SCHOLARSHIP PROCEDURES:

- The student will be notified via email the week of February 22-26, 2016 upon approval of the scholarship. The nominating graduate program will be copied.

- Students should notify the Graduate School and nominating graduate program whether they wish to accept or decline the scholarship by April 1, 2016. Failure of the recipient to notify the Graduate School via email by April 1 will result in the scholarship being awarded to another applicant. Due to the limited number of scholarships available, the scholarship cannot be deferred to another semester. All scholarships will begin Fall semester.

- One-half of the scholarship will be disbursed at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters, respectively. The scholarship will be paid as part of financial aid and will be disbursed via the student’s KSIS account.

STUDENT EXPECTATION TO RETAIN SCHOLARSHIP:

Scholarships are renewable for a second academic year upon re-nomination by the graduate program and upon the student continuing to meet expectations as outlined below:

- Remain in good academic standing.

- Maintain at least a 3.5 GPA.

- Be appointed on a .5 FTE graduate assistantship each semester the scholarship is effective.

- Participate in Graduate School-sponsored orientation session(s) and other activities planned for students receiving scholarships.

- Serve in leadership roles within the graduate program, academic department, and/or Graduate Student Council activities and committees.
- Participate in professional development workshops sponsored by the Graduate School and the Graduate Student Council.

- Participate in interdisciplinary research.