

2026 Keegstra and Thomashow travel AWARD

The Plant Research Lab (PRL) Personnel Affairs Committee (PAC) is soliciting nominations for the **2026 Keegstra and Thomashow Travel Awards**. This endowed travel award program has been made possible by generous donations from Kenneth G. and Sue E. Keegstra, and Michael F. and Suzanne H. Thomashow, to offset travel costs **for PRL graduate students** to attend and present their research at scientific conferences.

Drs. Ken Keegstra and Mike Thomashow served as Directors of the PRL (1/1/1993-10/31/2006 and 11/1/2006-8/15/2015, respectively), and both participated in graduate education for nearly four decades as university professors. In their capacity as Director and professor, Keegstra and Thomashow directly observed the positive impact resulting from students attending science conferences. Their hope, as well that of their wives, Sue Keegstra and Suzanne Thomashow, is that the funds will enrich graduate education and future careers of promising PRL students.

The selection will be primarily based on research excellence for work conducted at MSU. Other scholarly activities may also be considered. The candidates must be nominated by their research advisors. The nomination packet should consist of a nominating letter, curriculum vitae of the nominee, an abstract of the work to be presented at the conference, and any supplemental material deemed appropriate by the person making the nomination.

Nominations should be submitted electronically as a single PDF file to whitma36@msu.edu (Darlene Whitman, 106 Plant Biology) by 2/27/2026. Questions may be directed to the Chair of the PRL Personnel Affairs Committee, Jianping Hu (huji@msu.edu). The winner will receive \$1200.