



July 10, 2026

To: SSSP Board of Directors

From: Patricia Sánchez-Connally, Framingham State University , 2026 Chair of Lee Student Support Fund

Re: 2026 Committee Report for Lee Student Support Travel Funds

The Lee Student Support Travel Fund report details the work of the Committee for the 2026 awards period.

In 2026, the Lee Student Support Travel Fund consisting of Patricia Sánchez-Connally (Chair), Framingham State University, Watoii Rabii, Oakland University, and Stephani Williams, Northern Arizona University, deliberated collectively to allocate a total budget of \$15,000 for the travel awards. These funds were to be allocated to 30 applicants. We received 89 applications; 2 applicants were ineligible for consideration due to membership status. This was an increase of 10 applicants over 2025.

The committee utilized the following criteria:

- **Location:** 3 for Pacific U.S., 2 for Mountain U.S., 1 for Central U.S., 0 for Eastern U.S., 4 for Canada, 5 for Other International Students
- **Conference role:** 3 for multiple roles, 2 for discussant (or Division Chair), 1 for organizing/presiding
- **Presenting a paper:** 3 for 3 papers, 2 for 2 papers, 1 for 1 paper
- **Received a travel award last year:** 0 for yes, 1 for no
- **Academic career stage:** 4 for job market candidates, 3 for Ph.D. candidates, 2 for Ph.D. students, 1 for Master's students
- **Amount of financial support from university/advisor:** 3 for \$0, 2 for \$1–\$500, 1 for \$501–\$1,000, 0 for more than \$1,000
- **Belongs to a marginalized social group:** 0 for no, 2 for yes

The Committee engaged in deliberations by email. On May 12, 2026, as the committee chair, I notified Michele Koontz of the committee's funding determinations. Kelsey Whitaker began contacting all applicants to inform them of their award and requested a response via email to confirm their SSSP attendance. After confirming that the 30 recipients accepted the awards, she notified the non-recipients. Two of the non-recipients had questions regarding their application and the process by which the committee reviewed applicants. These non-recipients were contacted via email by the chair of the committee.

The Committee was pleased with the student response and would like to affirm the importance of The Lee Support Fund Travel Awards to student participation in SSSP. Please let me know if there are any questions, psanchezconnally@framingham.edu.

Sincerely,

Patricia Sánchez-Connally, PhD
Chair, 2026 Lee Student Travel Awards
Framingham State University, MA, USA