I invite you or any of your faculty to nominate graduate students for the C.S. Mott Predoctoral Fellowships in Sustainable Agriculture for the 2012-2013 Academic Year. These fellowships are intended for students beginning a Ph.D. program in the 2012-2013 academic year and engaging in research relevant to sustainable agriculture, broadly defined. For students who have already committed to attending, this is an offer to supplement/displace existing funding offers. There will be up to two fellowships of $35,000 each awarded this year (this should be distributed as year 1: $11,500, year 2: $11,500 and year 3: $12,000). Each fellowship will be guaranteed for the three years pending completion of a satisfactory annual report by July 1 of each year. Mott Fellows are required to participate in the Graduate Specialization in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems. While these awards can displace existing committed funding, it is expected that the total funding to the Mott Fellow will be $2,500 (excluding fringe) above your normal departmental assistantship, e.g., if your departmental guidelines authorize a $15,000 stipend (plus fringe) then the stipend would be $17,500.

To nominate a student, the faculty member should send a copy of the student’s graduate application package along with a memo concerning the student’s probable dissertation area and relevance to sustainable agriculture. Please note, aside from the $2,500 “bump up”, the remaining funds can be utilized as a “best fit” in the funding package. In the example above, the additional $8,500 could be used to cover any part of the graduate assistantship already committed to the student. If a selected student either fails to enroll or withdraws from the university remaining, prorated funds are returned to the Fellowship Endowment for competitive distribution.

Nominations are due by February 15 and awards will be made February 29. Please send all nominations to Ms. Anne Conwell (conwella@msu.edu), Secretary to the C.S. Mott Chair, 312 Natural Resources, Department of CARRS. I can be reached at 2-1611 or mhamm@msu.edu if you have any questions.

Thank you for your interest.

Michael W. Hamm
C.S. Mott Chair of Sustainable Agriculture