

### Additional Funding Support to GSA's Annual Meeting



GSA's On To the Future Program (OTF) offers partial travel scholarships for students to attend the Annual Meeting. If you are looking for additional money to support your travel or if you are OTF alum who would like to attend your next GSA Annual Meeting, check out the following money saving tips to help pay for or defray travel costs to the GSA Annual Meeting:

- **University and Departmental Funding.** There are a few places on campus you may be able to find additional funding for your attendance to the meeting. First, check with your university mentor or professor and let them know that you were awarded a partial travel scholarship through GSA's On To the Future Program and are looking for additional funding. If you are presenting a poster at the meeting, it is more likely that you will be able to receive funding from your department or university so consider submitting an abstract.

When you speak with your mentor, ask them if it is appropriate for you to approach the department chair to set up a meeting to discuss funding options. You can then send an email to the department chair, introducing yourself and ask to set up a meeting. You can also attach your award letter from GSA and/or a support letter. You can let them know that you received a partial travel award to attend the Annual Meeting and are looking at other funding options or sponsorship from the department. It is not uncommon for departments to be approached by students to attend a professional meeting so don't be shy about asking. In many cases your department chair will be supportive in helping you. If they don't have funds to help you, they may be able to point you to other places at your university. If you do receive funding from your department, don't forget to send a thank you letter after the meeting.

If you are unsuccessful in finding departmental funding, you can check with the dean of your college, the university's diversity and inclusion office, the dean or director of the graduate school, or the diversity liaison of your college. You may also want to talk with your mentor about these other options.

- **GSA Sectional Meetings.** If you are not already a member of your [GSA Section](#), become one. As a member of your GSA Section you may be eligible for GSA Section Meeting [travel grants](#) to attend Sectional and Annual Meetings. Presenting your research at the Annual Meeting is required to obtain these funds.
- **Local Rotary and Lions Clubs.** Connect with your local [Rotary](#) and [Lions Club](#). Many times these services oriented organizations may support you in exchange for a presentation upon your return.
- **Share Rooms/Rides to Meetings.** Sometimes sharing the cost of travel and rooms at a GSA Meeting can save you money that you can spend elsewhere. Check or post information on the student discussion of the [OTF Connected Community website](#) or on the [Annual Meeting website](#), Roommates & Rides discussion page.
- **Look at Lodging Options.** You are not required to stay in the Meeting's host hotels, check out other lodging options such as cheaper hotels and youth hostels.