MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

McNair Scholar Handbook

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The MSU Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is 81.2% funded by the U.S. Department of Education under grant #P217A090330 at $225,000 annually, and 18.8% state funded at $52,000 annually.

The ***McNair Scholar Handbook*** describes the expectations and benefits of being a participant in the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program at Murray State University. Each scholar is given a copy of this document and is responsible for the information provided in this manual.

The ***Handbook*** is designed to give an accurate overview of program expectations, benefits and operations, but it is not exhaustive. Many applicable specific policies and procedures are provided, as needed, in other formats such as written announcements, newsletters, bulletin boards, electronic-mail messages, and telephone calls. This is a living document, subject to modification as needed. As a result, updates will be occasionally added in an effort to keep the ***Handbook*** current.

Program History and Overview

In 1986, the United States Congress created a post-baccalaureate federal TRIO program in honor of Ronald E. McNair. The Murray State University McNair Scholars Program was first funded in 2003 by the U.S. Department of Education, and was funded for a second four-year grant in 2009. Murray State's is one of two such programs in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The MSU McNair Scholars Program seeks to prepare and encourage *undergraduates* from either low-income, first-generation college families or groups historically underrepresented in graduate education to successfully pursue doctoral study through enriching scholastic experiences. Program participants benefit from a variety of services such as educational activities and seminars, tutorial services, paid faculty-mentored research internships and GRE preparation. Depending on need, scholars may be eligible to receive financial aid assistance.

Ronald E. McNair Biography [NASA website]

OCTOBER 21, 1950 to JANUARY 28, 1986

Born on October 21, 1950 in South Carolina, Ronald E. McNair was the son of Carl C. McNair, Sr., and Pearl M. McNair. Ronald could read and write before entering school and was considered a mechanical genius, which earned him the nickname of "Gizmo." The impetus for his early love of science was the Soviet launch of Sputnik, the first space satellite. At Carver High School, McNair was a well-rounded student who excelled in athletics and academics. Despite crushing poverty and the overt discrimination in the south at this time, McNair was still named the valedictorian of his high school class.

After receiving a state scholarship, he attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T) in Greensboro He was discouraged until a counselor urged him to major in physics. The counselor was quoted in *Time* magazine as telling the young McNair, "I think you're good enough." In 1971 McNair graduated from NC A&T *magna cum laude* with a B.S. degree in physics. McNair was named a Ford Foundation Fellow and Presidential Scholar. He was awarded a scholarship to continue studies in physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). McNair specialized in quantum electronics and laser technology, completing his Ph.D. in 1977. As a student he performed some of the earliest work on chemical HF/DF and high pressure CO lasers, publishing path-breaking scientific papers on the subject.

McNair, a black belt, taught karate classes while in graduate school and participated in several tournaments, taking more than 30 trophies in these competitions. In 1974 he was named Omega Psi Phi Scholar of the Year. While involved in these activities McNair met and married Cheryl B. Moore of Brooklyn, New York, and they later had two children.

After completing his Ph.D. he began working at the Optical Physics Department of Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, California, and conducted research on electro-optic laser modulation for

satellite-to-satellite space communications. Because of his research, McNair worked with closely with the NASA space program and, in January 1978 NASA selected him to enter the astronaut cadre, one of the first three Black Americans selected. He became the second Black American in space during the Challenger Shuttle mission STS-41-B, February 3-11, 1984. During this mission McNair operated the maneuverable arm used to move payloads in space. The 1986 Challenger STS-51-L mission on which he was killed was his second Shuttle flight.

McNair Office and Staff

The McNair Scholars Program Office is located in Room 325A Wells Hall.

Mailing Address:

MSU McNair Scholars Program, 325A Wells Hall, MSU, Murray, KY 42071

The office telephone number: 270-809-2951

Staff Name	Phone	Email
Dr. John Mateja, Program Director	270-809-3191	john.mateja@murraystate.edu
Leslie Furches, Program Coordinator	270-809-2951	mcnair@murraystate.edu

SCHOLAR RESPONSIBILITIES

Scholar responsibilities are outlined in the Scholar Participation Agreement that is signed upon official admittance into the McNair Scholars Program and the Scholar Contract .

ACTIVITIES

Scholar Research, Scholarly or Creative Project Internship

Research is the "studious inquiry or examination aimed at the discovery and interpretation of new knowledge" (The Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2004). The MSU McNair Scholars Program is designed to provide enriching and successful research experiences throughout the year.

Juniors and/or seniors are expected to conduct a 320-hour research project under the guidance of an approved faculty mentor. Scholars must complete a minimum of one research internship prior to graduation; scholars might have the opportunity to complete an additional project, depending on availability of funds. A second project must be approved by the program coordinator and program director. The following is the recommended research schedule for scholars:

Timeline:	**Scholars will:**
6 months prior to beginning research project:	• Begin the process of finding a mentor 1. Review good class experiences 2. Make appointments with favorite professors – explain the McNair research requirements to them, introduce the McNair Program 3. Determine professors' research interests online via the Academic Department website • Begin developing a research project with the selected mentor
3 months prior to beginning research project:	• Begin reading peer-reviewed journals, books, etc. relevant to research interests; need a minimum of five strong references • Complete Background Check Form; any employee must be approved prior to starting research hours.
1 month prior to beginning the research project:	• Turn Research Proposal to McNair Program Office; it must be signed by the faculty mentor, be a minimum of 4 pages in length. (Due at least one month prior to the start of the research internship). See next page, Section on Research and Budget Proposal for further details.
Research Project Internship:	• Complete 160 hours on research project; complete Time & Effort Documentation and Progress Report; review with faculty mentor
Research Project Internship:	• Complete remaining 160 hours (320 total hours). Turn in final, mentor-approved, report (approx. 15-20 pages, double-spaced) with completed, mentor-reviewed Time & Effort Documentation to McNair Program Office. See next page, Compensation for Research Internship for further details.
within 6 months after completing project:	• Create Research Poster & Presentation • Present project findings at a regional or national professional conference, or submit to/publish in journal
October	• Submit abstract for *Posters-at-the-Capitol*
January	• Finalize poster for *Posters-at-the-Capitol* presentation
March	• Submit abstract for *MSU Scholars Week* to present findings in April

For students entering the program with less than six months left until expected date of graduation, the above recommended schedule may be adjusted with the approval of the McNair staff as agreed to in the Scholar Contract.

Mentor Selection

The initial and most important step of the research experience is selecting a faculty mentor, and program staff will assist scholars with this process. Scholars must discuss the progress of selection with either the director or the program coordinator, and seek the director's approval before making a final decision about a faculty mentor. The faculty mentor should be carefully selected so that his/her own research interests and expertise coincide with the student's interests and career goals. Sometimes, a team of mentors is accepted. Similarly, if circumstances provide, more than one scholar can work with the same mentor, and/or on the same research project. A thorough investigation of one's options is critical to ensuring a mutually beneficial and satisfying relationship.

Students will want to consider working with someone who is willing and able to dedicate adequate time to guide the project, and someone whose personality is compatible. It is advantageous for scholars if the mentor is willing to offer recommendations and insights related to being successful in graduate school.

Research Proposal and Budget Proposal

Scholar and mentor are expected to meet before the research experience begins. The purpose of this initial meeting is to set long and short-term research goals, determine the research action plan, and set the time-line for research and/or proposal completion. The scholar is responsible for submitting a research proposal, a minimum of four (4) pages in length, to the McNair Program Office and notifying the McNair staff of the proposed faculty mentor.

The research proposal should include, but is not limited to, the following components:

- research question,
- background/literature review,
- methodology,
- expected findings,
- expected implications/outcome of project,
- bibliography with a minimum of five (5) scholarly sources,
- timeline for completing the project,
- list of possible meetings/conferences/publications to present/publish results, and
- proposed budget for the project. (The programs provides up to $600 for supplies/research costs).

The faculty mentor must sign and date the research proposal, indicating agreement with the scholar's research plan***. Scholars must complete this process prior to beginning the research project, and/or when he/she changes the focus of research, or when he/she changes or adds mentors.***

Compensation for Research Internship

All scholars are required to complete a minimum of one research internship (320 hours) during their junior or senior year. Depending on the availability of funds, scholars *may* be allowed to complete an additional research internship, pending approval from the program coordinator and program director. Scholars will be given a stipend of $2800 for a completed internship. In accordance with federal regulations, a scholar cannot be paid for more than one McNair research internship during a given year, October thru September. Prior to submitting the research proposal, scholars must complete a background check form (in accordance with state and university requirements). Once the scholar is approved for employment, he or she should submit the research proposal. When the proposal is submitted, McNair staff will submit all employment information, including a completed I-9 Form, Personnel Action Form, and a photocopy of the scholar's driver's license and social security card, or other acceptable documentation as noted on the I-9 Form. Scholars are compensated for the number of completed research hours and adequate documentation must be submitted in order to receive

payment. In addition, scholars are allocated up to $600 to offset costs associated with the project (supplies, equipment, travel, etc.). In order to receive any of the payments, scholars must demonstrate regular participation in the program activities.

The research stipend for the McNair Internship will be dispersed according to the following schedule:

- Completion/acceptance of research proposal (minimum of 4 pages in length)—$500.00
- Completion of 160 hours of research and submission of written progress report (approximately 7-10 pages in length) and the research time sheet signed by faculty mentor (note: time spent on developing the proposal can be included in the 160 hours)—$1000
- Completion of all 320 hours and submission of final written research paper/ progress report (approx. 15-20 pages in length) and the research time sheet signed by faculty mentor— $1000
- Presentation of research at a regional or national conference—$300(plus travel stipend); *Payment will only be received for presenting at a regional or national conference, or publication in a professional journal.*

Note: All written reports are intended to help scholar make progress toward a final product. The recommended lengths above are not binding, but all documentation should be significant enough to justify scholar compensation. Generally, McNair staff will defer to faculty mentor expertise/opinion. However, the program director will have final approval as to whether or not these documents meet with program requirements and represent adequate justification for payment.

Scholars should review the project budget in proposal with program coordinator to clarify which expenses can be purchased directly by the McNair program. **Murray State's finance and accounting rules prohibit reimbursement of supply purchases. Supplies will need to be purchased by the McNair staff for the scholar. Scholars will need to provide an itemized list with the vendor information, product information and purchase price. This should be done in advance so that supplies can be ordered in a timely manner.**

Research Presentations

All scholars are **required** to present their research findings at *MSU Scholars Week* held in April of each year, and at either a national or regional meeting/conference. Scholars have the opportunity to present their research, scholarly or creative projects at various McNair research symposiums. An electronic version of any presentation (PowerPoint handouts, conference program booklet, etc.) must be submitted to the McNair office within one week of the presentation. Faculty mentors can provide guidance on upcoming conferences and presentation opportunities.

These conferences provide opportunities to network with faculty, graduate school representatives, professionals, graduate students and other undergraduates in a particular field. Scholars will receive a travel allowance to help facilitate this travel although additional funding sources may need to be explored (through your department), depending upon costs associated with individual travel plans. Scholars are responsible for seeking out possible conferences with the assistance of faculty members and McNair staff and examining the total cost of the trip prior to requesting approval. Presentation/research abstracts must be submitted and accepted by conference organizers before travel may be arranged. *See Individual or Group Scholar Travel for further details.*

Policy Concerning Ownership of Research

In conjunction with the MSU Office of General Counsel, the following policy concerning undergraduate research projects is adopted: Undergraduate MSU students participating in a paid, McNair research internship receive significant university support (funds exceeding $1000), including the research stipend ($2800) and supply dollars ($600). Therefore, any scholar that wishes to sell their research ideas/work commercially will share ownership with Murray State University. Further consultation with the MSU Office of General Counsel will be required before any project ideas/work can be commercially offered.

Mentor Grievances

In the event that a scholar is unable to resolve a problem/conflict with a mentor, the program coordinator and/or director will first meet individually with the scholar and the faculty member to discuss the situation. If necessary, the coordinator and/or director will mediate a meeting between the scholar and the mentor. Every effort will be made to fully resolve any problems or misunderstandings. In the event that no resolution can be reached, the director will decide an appropriate course of action that is in the best interests of the scholar and the faculty mentor.

Faculty Mentor Relationship: Scholar Expectations

All faculty mentors receive a copy of the *Faculty Mentor Handbook* and a copy of a scholar contract outlining task deadlines upon starting a research project with a scholar, and are contacted via phone, email, or personal visit by the program coordinator or director to discuss expectations and address any questions. A scholar's relationship with his or her faculty mentor is one of the most important relationships during one's undergraduate years.

All scholars are expected to follow these guidelines:

(1) Meet regularly with mentor, preferably one hour a week or more, to discuss and evaluate progress on research project. During the weekly meeting, review hours of work with mentor and record hours in the Time and Effort Document.
(2) Be punctual for all meetings with mentor.
(3) Defer to the mentor's expertise with regard to research methodology, writing style, and/or project development.
(4) Communicate! Avoid misunderstandings by keeping the faculty mentor informed and by asking for information when uncertain about procedures or what to do next.
(5) Ask mentor to suggest relevant readings to broaden knowledge base.
(6) Get insight from mentor about possible graduate programs and the graduate school environment's cultures, values, norms, etc., to better prepare for potential challenges and pitfalls.
(7) Request guidance when preparing presentation [all McNair Scholars will be expected to give an oral or poster presentation on their project at *MSU's Scholars Week* and a regional or national professional meeting].
(8) Ask mentor about opportunities to attend professional development activities [conferences, seminars, meetings, etc. – depending on availability, funds for student travel to these meetings might be available].
(9) Have *mentor proof and approve* all written documents and time and effort forms submitted to the McNair program.
(10) Accept constructive criticism and resolve to act on it. Be open to feedback and incorporate the mentor's suggestions.

Mentors will complete an evaluation that assesses scholar strengths and weaknesses and the mentoring experience at the conclusion of the project.

Monthly Scholar Meetings

After being admitted, each scholar will have a monthly meeting (September-November and February-April) with the program coordinator and/or director. It is the scholar's responsibility to schedule these meetings. Additional meetings may be necessary to adequately address scholar needs (for example, meetings during the summer months or two in one month).

Education and Personal Growth Action Plan
The Education and Personal Needs Assessment Plan is created within 60 days of appointment to the program. The scholars will meet individually with the program staff to determine their goals and the actions those goals will require. At the beginning of each year, scholars will review their needs with a staff member and make any necessary changes.

Scholars are responsible for providing McNair staff with a current class schedule and updated contact information at the beginning of each semester.

McNair Activities/Events

Monthly activities and special events, such as the annual retreat, graduate school visits, McNair Summer Camp, seminars and workshops, are planned purposefully for the benefit of the scholars, so attendance is expected.

Annual McNair Banquet

Each spring, usually in April, the McNair Program hosts a banquet or reception to honor graduating scholars, scholar accomplishments, and faculty mentors. Family members/friends are encouraged to attend. In addition, any scholar who has presented a research poster over the previous year is asked to display his or her poster at the event.

Tutoring Services

Academic tutoring is available to assist each scholar successfully complete undergraduate courses and maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Generally, a scholar is responsible for finding his or her own tutor, by asking the course professor for recommendations. If a scholar is unable to find a tutor, the program coordinator will assist in the search for a suitable candidate. Tutors are paid, and are eligible to work up to five hours a week. Anyone interested in being a tutor, must meet with the program coordinator prior to beginning hours; tutors must pass a mandatory background check before they are considered employable. The program coordinator will submit all necessary paperwork (Background Check Form, I-9 Form, Student Personnel Action Form, and a photocopy of the tutor's driver's license and social security card), and maintain a record of services provided. Each tutor must agree to and sign a tutor expectations form and confidentiality statement. The form outlines the following: timesheets must be signed in the McNair Office biweekly; all tutoring must take place in the program office during regular office hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.), in the campus library, or in the Curris Center. Any other location must be pre-approved by the program coordinator. In addition, to ensure payment, both tutors and scholars are expected to complete evaluation/progress reports by the 15th and 30th of each month.

Individual and Group Scholar Travel

Scholars are expected to behave appropriately and be ambassadors for the program and MSU when traveling on behalf of the MSU McNair Scholars Program. Student misconduct will not be tolerated and will result in termination from the program. Scholars will receive numerous opportunities to travel while participating in the program (such as, graduate school visits, conferences, other national and state meetings to the present research findings, and McNair Summer Camp). The program expects scholars to take full advantage of these travel opportunities by attending all events scheduled during the trip. All scholar travel must follow the policies established by the Accounting and Financial Services Office, and scholars must submit all appropriate documentation, including:

(1) All travel must be pre-approved by the program coordinator and/or director, at least one month in advance.
(2) For individual travel, four weeks prior to travel, students must schedule a meeting with the program coordinator to complete a Travel Request Form; scholar should bring a completed Scholar Travel Form. If travel requires the purchase of an airline ticket (by program) or use of a university vehicle, all paperwork should be completed at least six weeks in advance. Airline tickets and use of a university vehicle will be coordinated by the program coordinator on behalf of the student, and billed directly to the program.
(3) A **notarized** university release form is required by each scholar traveling, whether group or individual travel. Forms are available from the program coordinator. The original should be submitted to the program coordinator no later than two days prior to departure.
(4) The program requires supporting materials and an experiential reflection (a minimum of two pages in length) be submitted one week after the trip from all McNair-sponsored, individual travel.
(5) Once travel is confirmed and arrangements have been made, scholars are required to follow through with the trip. If, for any reason other than a serious family/health issue, the scholar decides to back out of the trip, he or she will be responsible for personally recovering the cost of any subsequent program funds lost as a result. The program director will make the final decision regarding whether or the student is liable for program costs.

Graduate School Visitation

Scholars are encouraged to travel to various graduate schools throughout the country to examine institutions and departments as possible graduate school destinations, either as a group or individually. Senior scholars are required to complete one graduate school visit prior to graduation and monetary assistance/ travel funds are provided by the McNair program, dependent upon adequate preparation for each visit, completion of program requirements to date, and availability of funds. Travel arrangements must be approved by the program coordinator and/or the program director prior to the actual visit. Please refer to Individual and Group Travel Section (page 9) for procedures. Proper documentation of scheduled meetings and appointments with graduate faculty are required in order to receive reimbursement. All receipts should be turned into the program coordinator within one week of scholar's return. In addition, scholars must submit an experiential reflection on the outcome or revelations from the visit will also be due one week after the return date and should be at least two pages in length.

Graduate School Applications

Graduate Application Fee Waivers

Some graduate schools waive the application fee for McNair Scholars. A list of these schools can be found at http://www.rochester.edu/College/McNair-Program/AppIncentives.html. For a scholar to receive this waiver at a given institution, he or she must obtain a Certification of Participation from the program coordinator, a national, standardized form. This form must be signed by the MSU McNair Director.

Copies of all completed graduate school application materials must be submitted to the McNair program coordinator within two weeks of applying. A completed application includes, but is not limited to, the student's personal statement, resume/curriculum vitae, application, GRE score, and list of those who are submitting reference letters. Each scholar must submit four (4) applications, one of which must be to a Ph.D. program prior to graduation ceremonies. An academic hold will be placed on scholar record for failure to comply.

Laptops

Laptop and Equipment Loan Program

Scholars have the opportunity to check out laptops courtesy of the McNair Scholars Program. They are available only to current McNair scholars unless otherwise approved by the program coordinator or director, and priority will be given to those students who are currently participating in a McNair research internship. The student must read and complete the McNair Scholars Program Laptop Check-out Form, available from the McNair Office. Students must agree to the terms: the laptop must be returned on the date designated on the agreement (approximately one month); no programs are to be added to the laptop (problems tend to focus around Instant Messenger programs), and these laptops are to be used for academic and research use only. Upon checking out the laptop, McNair staff will make a record of the student and the laptop's assigned number. When the laptop is returned, it will be turned on and checked to ensure the computer is in functional order. If any problems are found, computer support personnel will be notified and the malfunctioning laptop will be taken out of service until it is completely repaired. If the problem was directly caused by the student, then any repair costs will be the responsibility of the student (per the contract they signed upon checkout). A hold will be placed on student records for late and misused computers.

McNair Summer Camp

The summer prior to graduation, scholars are expected to attend the McNair Summer Camp, an intensive, off-campus seminar that prepares scholars for the graduate school application process. At the Camp, scholars are taught how to successfully and efficiently get into graduate school. Held during the first week of June, the camp lasts approximately five days. Students are expected to make arrangements for time-off from academic courses, work, etc., during this time. While it is a very intense experience, the rewards are substantial. At the end of the camp, scholars are able to leave with a completed personal statement, list of potential graduate schools, and other materials that make the fall graduate school application process much easier. Scholars are expected to complete some preparatory work prior to the beginning of Camp.

GRE Review Course

McNair scholars are enrolled in IDC-300, a one-hour credit course available only to McNair scholars that focuses primarily on preparing students to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Scholars are expected to attend all sessions, complete assigned work and readings, complete a series of practice tests, as assigned by the instructor, and submit their scores to the program coordinator. McNair staff will enroll students in the course. Blackboard may be utilized for this course.

All scholars are expected to take the General GRE and report their scores to the McNair office before graduation (typically taking the GRE exam in November of their senior year and reporting their scores by December). Scholars will sign up to take the GRE through IDC-300. Photocopies of the official score report must be sent/given to the McNair program coordinator.

RESOURCES

Chrysalis

At least once a year, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) publishes *Chrysalis: The Murray State University Journal of Undergraduate Research*. McNair scholars are encouraged to submit their research for publication. Specific guidelines and the deadline are available on the URSA web site.

National McNair Directory

The Council on Opportunity in Education (COE) and the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) publishes a national McNair directory of graduating seniors intended to help graduate schools from across the country specifically recruit McNair scholars to their programs. MSU scholars are submitted to this directory every **summer** by the program coordinator.

Scholar Attendance and Late Policy

Attendance at all McNair meetings and events is expected, unless otherwise noted in the event announcement or on the semester calendar (located on Blackboard). These meetings and events are designed to: enhance the program experience, help better prepare scholars to be successful in graduate school, expose scholars to professional academic life, and expose them to cultural, intellectual, or current events. Furthermore, scholars are expected to submit any requested materials/assignments on the respective due dates.

Excessive absences or misconduct will not be tolerated and appropriate action will be taken that may result in a reduction of funds and/or dismissal from the program. Scholars are expected to attend at least 90% of all activities and meetings; three unexcused tardies will result in one absence. Every effort should be made to communicate with the program coordinator prior to the event or deadline.

Excused absences or tardies will include a family or medical emergency, academic classes, or special situations, as determined by the program coordinator and/or director. A doctor's note may be required. Unexcused absences will include time spent working on research, club meetings, or other items, as determined by the program coordinator and/or director.

Scholar Communication Policy

Scholars are expected to respond to all program communication (primarily distributed through email) in a timely manner. Students are responsible for checking their university email account at least three (3) times a week and respond to the email in a timely manner. More than five tardy responses to program communication will result in the reduction of monies and/or other benefits.

Consequences and Removal from Program

The program staff will keep a record of absences, responses to communications, and whether or not the scholar is meeting the expectations of the program. Once it is determined by the program coordinator and/or director that a scholar is not meeting the expectations of the program, monies may be subtracted from a student's research stipend, scholarship dollars, travel allowances, and/or other benefits. Continued failures may result in possible dismissal from the program. The decision for dismal will be determined by the director and program coordinator.

The McNair Scholars Program reserves the right to terminate any scholar who chooses not to meet the program expectations or violates MSU policies. The following steps will be taken by program staff to document and address inappropriate behavior and possible termination from the program are as follows:

1) Scholars will receive a written warning when a policy has been violated. Examples include, but are not limited to, missing an unacceptable number of program events or monthly meetings, violating university and/or program policy during on-or-off-campus events, or failing to complete required assignments. The violation will then be discussed with program coordinator who will document the student's response and steps outlined to rectify the situation.

2) If a second violation of program policy is committed, the student will receive a second written warning and must meet with the coordinator who will document the student's response and steps outlined to rectify the situation.

3) If a third violation of program or university policy occurs, the student will meet with the director who will determine whether or not the student should be terminated from the program.

The Value of McNair

The McNair Program offers scholars access to significant resources that will help McNair participants become successful at the graduate level and ultimately achieve a Ph.D. As such, the program expects that participants take this opportunity seriously and make the most of each experience. Although it may not yet be entirely apparent for new scholars, being part of McNair encompasses benefits ranging far beyond stipend dollars received and seminars/trips attended during your undergraduate career. Being a McNair scholar carries prestige and recognition at a national level and is a great honor for any student who successfully completes all program requirements. It is a chance to build a solid reputation, bolster credentials, and enjoy personal relationships and a support network that will hopefully last beyond graduation from MSU.