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Notes from the Directors

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Notes from the Directors

As the new Director of the Honors College, I am pleased to have the opportunity to support and applaud the exceptional work of McNair Scholars. Over the past two years, these students have engaged in rigorous research experiences, participated in many workshops, and completed major research projects with the help of their faculty mentors and the McNair staff. It is my great honor to be a part of the efforts to nurture their development into the scholars of tomorrow.

The McNair Scholars Program is named for Dr. Ronald McNair, the son of a skilled tradesman and a teacher who became a physicist, received his doctoral degree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and later trained as an astronaut. Sadly, Dr. McNair was killed on the Challenger space ship. However, Dr. McNair's words remain an inspiration: "Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You are eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky." The McNair Chronicles offers a glimpse into the future. The McNair scholars' research that you will read in volume 3 includes a number of disciplines from physics to business administration. This volume represents the culmination of in-depth research. The outstanding McNair scholars published in this volume will soon take their places as faculty researchers, teachers, and mentors for other students.

As a first-generation college student myself, I am exceptionally proud to have the opportunity to support our McNair Scholars as they move forward, gaining essential research skills that will prepare them for a future in the academy. I offer my thanks to the faculty mentors and the McNair staff for their hard work, and I particularly wish to thank Provost Kay, Dean Venner (College of Arts and Sciences), and Caryn Charter (Office of Research Development), for their generous support of this publication.

For our McNair Scholars, the sky is the limit.

Dr. Rebecca Sipe
Director, EMU Honors College

I have had the honor to direct the McNair Scholars Program during its first three years of operation at Eastern Michigan University. I leave the program with regret to return to the classroom, but assured that the program has a brilliant and energetic new director in Dr. Heather Neff. The scholars' work that is presented here represents the first efforts of undergraduate students to begin journeys in their respective professions as researchers and teaching faculty. During the ten-week 2010 Summer Research Institute these students produced the fine work that you will read, and this suggests that they are well-suited to the rigors of graduate school and ultimately to work in the academy. Also, I thank the faculty mentors, seminar speakers and McNair staff who made significant contributions to each Scholar's achievement.

I especially want to compliment the exceptional effort of our copy editor, David E. Nelson, whose teaching skill and technical writing expertise greatly facilitated our goal of sharing the scholars' work in a timely way within the academic community.

This program is made possible by a federal grant from the Department of Education, which enabled EMU to implement the McNair Scholars Program. Housed in the Honors College, the Program's goals include college completion, and successful application to and graduation from a doctoral program. To facilitate achieving the program's goals, sophomores, juniors, and seniors receive intensive training on research methods, funding to conduct research, and in-depth personal advising. The selection criteria for the Program include U.S. citizenship, a minimum grade point average of 3.0, and that participants be first-generation college students or members of an underrepresented group (African-American, Native American/Alaskan Native, or Hispanic).

Thirty-five students are enrolled in the program each year and selection is made during the fall and winter semesters. For further information, please contact 734-487-0342 or visit our web site at www.emich.edu/honors/mcnair.

Dr. Betty Brown-Chappell

Director, McNair Scholars Program (January 2008-August 2010)

Associate Director, Honors College