Seven Years of Success!
Dr. Heather Neff, Director, Eastern Michigan University McNair Scholars Program

Funded by grant from the U.S. Department of Education the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program, commonly known as the “McNair Scholars Program,” is designed to assist traditionally underrepresented students in gaining admission to, and succeeding in doctoral education.

Now completing its seventh year, the EMU McNair Scholars Program is thriving. During the fall of 2013 we welcomed fifteen new participants to our cohort of thirty-three students, including fourteen members of the Honors College and two EMU Presidential Scholars. Having increased our focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) recruitment, 31% of our new students come from Aviation Technology, Physics, Biology, Chemistry or Math. Our overall STEM representation has increased from 14% to 27%, approaching our goal of 40% STEM enrollment.

The record of success of EMU McNair remains exceptionally strong. To date, 98% of McNair Scholars meeting the requirements for the Bachelor’s degree have graduated. Seventy percent (70%) of our alumni have undertaken graduate studies. Of that group, 36% are currently enrolled in a Master’s degree program, 28% have completed a Master’s degree and 7% are enrolled in doctoral studies. Thirty percent (30%) of our alumni have pursued graduate studies at EMU.

Eight McNair Scholars published in Volume 6 (2013) of the McNair Scholars Research Journal. Disseminated in both print and electronic formats, the 54 articles in the six volumes of the journal have been downloaded internationally more than 55,000 times (http://commons.emich.edu/mcnaire/).

Our 2014 Summer Research Institute included graduate admissions seminars taught by Dr. Arnold Fleischmann, Dr. Ellen Koch and Jennifer Janicek, of EMU Financial Aid. The McNair Program also offered a Princeton Review Graduate Record Examination preparatory course, with funding support from Student Government, to EMU students and staff at a greatly reduced rate. EMU students were also invited to attend the new McNair Lecture Series, in which speakers Keith Jason, Dr. Mark Jackson, Candace Dorsey and Cynthia Van Pelt shared their strategies for academic survival and success.

We have particularly benefitted from the support of Campus Life, the Graduate School, the College of Arts and Sciences, the EMU Office of Financial Aid and the continued generosity of the University. Thank you, very much, to Mr. Gregg Costanzo, Marcus Adams, Dr. Sarah Huyvaert, Vice President and Associate Provost Jeffrey Kentor, CAS Dean Thomas Venner, Cynthia Van Pelt, CAS Associate Dean Kate Mehuron and Provost Kim Schatzel.

The success of EMU McNair is only possible because of the tireless support of the faculty mentors, who provide our students with the possibility to engage in exciting and enriching research. Our 2013-2014 faculty mentors include Ruth Ann Armitage, Ernest Behringer, Gina Boldman, Ramona Camponegro, Anne Casper, Yvette Colón, Natalie Dove, Steven Huprich, Toni Stokes-Jones, Maria Millietti, Heather Neff, Melvin Peters, Janet Okagbue-Reaves, Renee Lajiness-O’Neill, Philip Tartelone, Jeanne Thomas and Robert Winning.

(Left) Dr. Sylvia Jones, mentor to the 2014 McNair Scholar of the Year, Marcia Molett. (Right) Dr. Ruth Ann Armitage, recipient of the 2014 Sarah H. Huyvaert Mentor Award, with her mentee, Sylvia Torres.
2014 Graduate Admissions

Caprisha Curry: Admitted to De Paul University, St. John’s University, Eastern Michigan University.
Carmen Grange: Admitted to Michigan State University. Currently attends Eastern Michigan University’s M.S. Program in Exercise Physiology.
Briana McKoy: University of California Los Angeles, M.A. program in Film Studies.
Marcia Molett: University of Maryland, College Park; M.A. program in Urban Education.
Charae London-Terry: Admitted to Columbia University, Syracuse University and the University of Pittsburg. Will attend the Master’s of Social Work Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

2014 Master’s Degree Graduates

Jennifer Alexander, Columbia Teacher’s College
Dawn Kelly, University of Oklahoma M.S. in Fire and Emergency Management
Mariano Marks, Wayne State University, M.S. in Physics
Yasmeen Prince, New York University, Master’s of Social Work
Victor Torres, Michigan State Master’s of Teacher Education

2014 Doctoral Degree Candidates

Jasmine Lee, Michigan State University, Ph.D. in Higher Adult and Lifelong Education
Julie Krupa (undecided); admitted to Ph.D. Criminal Justice programs at Michigan State University, University of South Florida, University of Indiana, Washington State University, Sam Houston State University, University of Texas / Dallas, and the University of South Florida.
Ashley Rowland, University of Colorado / Boulder, Ph.D. in Molecular Biology
Dara Walker, Rutgers University, Ph.D. in African American Studies
Folayan Zheng, Nova Southwestern University, Ph.D. in Computer Engineering

2014 McNair Achievement Award Recipients

Marcus K. Adams Outstanding Service Awards
Tiffany Browne and Mikki Smith

Sarah H. Huyvaert Mentor of the Year Award
Dr. Ruth Ann Armitage, Professor of Chemistry

Research of the Year
Mayra Rivas-Rocha

Scholar of the Year
Marcia Denise Molett

The McNair Cadet class enjoyed a Graduate School Visit to Washington, D.C. in April. Students visited George Washington University, Georgetown and American University. We met with officials from the U.S. Department of Education, including Eileen Bland, Undergraduate Programs Division Director, Dr. Katie Blanding, Graduate and Special Focus Programs Division Director and Carmen Gordon, EMU McNair Program Officer. We also had time to tour the National Gallery and U.S. Air and Space Museum.
2013 — 2014 McNair Scholar Accomplishments

Shahana Ahmed – Dr. Anne Caspar, mentor. McNair Cadet, EMU Presidential Scholar, Honors College Member, Dean's List, Presented at the spring 2014 American Society for Microbiology Conference and EMU Undergraduate Symposium.

Kryn Ambs – Dr. Philip Tartelone, mentor. McNair Intern, Recipient of a Women in Philanthropy Grant, Aviation Scholarship, Member of the Ann Arbor Civil Air Patrol Squadron, Yankee Ladies, Women In Aviation International Chapter, Alpha Eta Rho Fraternity, EMU International Conversation Partner, Leader Award. Undergraduate Symposium presenter.

Brandon Britt – Dr. Toni Stokes-Jones, mentor. McNair Intern, Gates Millennium Scholar, Member of the MLK Day Planning Committee, Honors College, and President of the Black Student Union. Undergraduate Symposium presenter.

Tiffany Browne – Gina Boldman, mentor. McNair Cadet, EMU Presidential Scholar, Honors College, Honors College Mentor, National Society of Collegiate Scholars STAR Status Coordinator, McNair Scholars Program Smart News Writer, Dean’s List, Supplemental Instruction Leader-Holman Success Center, New Student Orientation Assistant. Barry A. Fish Undergraduate Symposium Scholarship, Undergraduate Symposium presenter.

Marcus K. Adams Outstanding Service Award

Caprisha Curry – Dr. Dennis Patrick, mentor. McNair Senior, Leader Award, Honor's College, Gregory W. Stevens Memorial, Associated Women Students, and Cracken/Warren Symposium Scholarships, Spain Study Abroad, Performed in the 2013/2014 production of The Vagina Monologues, Resource Consultant at the Holman Success Center, and In and Out Exchange Program Panelist.

Troy Deskins – Dr. Rusty McIntyre, mentor. McNair Senior, Teaching Assistant, Dean’s List, MLK Academic Session Presenter, Honors Research Fellowship. Selected to attend the Ivy Symposium (Harvard), Undergraduate Symposium presenter.

Carly Evich – Dr. Steven Huprich, mentor. McNair Intern, Research Assistant, Honors College, Dean’s List, Vice President of EMU Psychology Club, National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society – Secretary, Undergraduate Research Stimulus, Leader, and Anderson Awards, Honors Research Fellowship, Co-Authored Paper Presented at Society of Personality Assessment Annual Meeting, Undergraduate Symposium presenter.


Diamond Jones – Dr. Maria Milletti, mentor. McNair Cadet, Honors College, Dean's list, and Recipient of the Education First Opportunity Scholarship.

Charae London-Terry – Dr. Jeanne Thomas and Dr. Yvette Colon, mentors. McNair Intern/Senior, Eastern Pride and Identity Coalition Panelist, Dean's List, Undergraduate Psychology Advisor, Member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), EMU Grant, SOS Intern, Undergraduate Symposium presenter.

Rosaly Maldonado – Dr. Yvette Colon, mentor. McNair Cadet, Honor's Student, Dean's List, Leader Award, National Scholars Program, Member of the Latino Association, Attended the Día de la Mujer Conference at Michigan State University, Red Cross Fire Safety Volunteer, Undergraduate Symposium presenter.

Tanjaré McKay – Dr. Karen Saules, mentor. McNair Senior, Honors College, NAACP, Psychology Club Member, Undergraduate Symposium presenter.
2013 — 2014 McNair Scholar Accomplishments, continued

Briana McKoy – Dr. Melvin Peters, mentor. McNair Senior, Blavatnik Fellowship, Spain Study Abroad.

Marcia Molett – Dr. Sylvia Jones, mentor. McNair Scholar of the Year, Dean’s List, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Community Service Chair for Young Black Beautiful Women, Volunteer with Best Buddies International, Leader Award, MLK Academic Session presenter, Undergraduate Symposium presenter.

Courtney Raymond – Dr. Heather Janisse, mentor. McNair Senior, National Honors Society for Collegiate Scholars, Honors College, Dean’s List.

Tyreece Rembert – Dr. Dawn Pearcy, mentor. McNair Cadet, Leader Award, Co-Authored refereed journal paper with Faculty Mentor.

Brialle Ringer – Dr. Pamela Landau, mentor. McNair Cadet, EMU Honors College, Dean’s list, Psychology Club Treasurer, Alternative Spring Break, Member of Diversity Council, Student Government Senator.

Mayra Rivas – Dr. Heather Janisse, mentor. McNair Research Award, University of Michigan Summer Research Opportunity Program 2013, Honors College, Dean’s List, Undergraduate Symposium presenter.


Mikki Smith – Dr. Janet Okagbue-Reaves, mentor. McNair Cadet, Dean’s List, EMU Grant, Honors College, Leader Award, Mentor 2 Youth Community Service Chair, Mentor and Tutor, McNair Ambassador, Young Women Making Washtenaw County Better. Marcus K. Adams Outstanding Service Award.

Simone Tisder – Dr. Robert Winning, mentor. McNair Cadet and Leader Award.

Sylvia Torres – Dr. Ruth Ann Armitage, mentor. McNair Intern, Member of the Chemistry Club, American Chemistry Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Honors College, Presented research at Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy, Association of Analytical Chemistry and Maurice Decoster Endowed Chemistry Scholarship, Undergraduate Symposium presenter.

Nathaneil Winston – Dr. Melvin Peters, mentor. McNair Intern, NAACP President, Leader Award.
2014 Undergraduate Symposium Presenters
This year we set a new record: seventeen of our thirty-three participants presented their research at the Undergraduate Symposium, and Tiffany Browne was awarded a Barry A. Fish Undergraduate Symposium Scholarship for her paper, “Shiny Colored Tokens: An Examination of Female Racial Minorities in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter Series.”

Our proud presenters included:
Shahana Ahmed Charae London-Terry
Kryn Ambs Rosaly Maldonado
Jasym Barringer Marcia Molett
Tiffany Browne Mayra Rivas
Troy Deskins Jazmin Rodgers
Carly Evich Sylvia Torres
Timothy Harrison TyRonda Smith
Christopher Haskin

2014 Summer Research Opportunity Program Participants
Four McNair Scholars were selected to attend highly competitive Summer Research Opportunity Programs at Research I institutions throughout the United States:
Jazmin Rodgers: (1) Organizational Science Summer Institute at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte and (2) the Booth Summer Business Scholars Program at the University of Chicago
Brandon Britt: The Mentorship Initiative for Student Life at the Ohio State University
Shahana Ahmed: Future Public Health Leaders Program at the University of Michigan
Mikki Smith: Future Public Health Leaders Program at the University of Michigan

2014 McNair Research Colloquium
On Wednesday, June 11, 2014, the McNair Interns will present their McNair Research Projects to their families, friends and the university community. These projects, developed with the support of their faculty mentors, reflect an enormous range of research interests. We hope you can join us in room 320, Student Center from 10:00 a.m. – noon. A reception will follow.

Kryn Ambs, Dr. Philip Tartelone, mentor: The Influence of Cockpit Weather Automation on Pilot Perception and Decision-Making in Severe Weather Conditions
Brandon Britt, Dr. Toni Stokes-Jones, mentor: African American Male Inclusion, Involvement, Perception and Achievement at Predominantly White Institutions
Carly Evich, Dr. Steven Huprich, mentor: Evaluating the Relationship between Malignant Self-Regard and Achievement Striving
Charae London-Terry, Dr. Jeanne Thomas and Dr. Yvette Colón, mentors: The Influence of Cockpit Weather Automation on Pilot Perception and Decision-Making in Severe Weather Conditions
Sylvia Torres, Dr. Ruth Ann Armitage, mentor: DART-MS Analysis of Historic Tobacco Pipes to Investigate the Preservation of Nicotine Residues
TyRonda Smith, Renee Lajiness-O'Neill, mentor: Examining Neural Synchrony in Autism During Resting State With Magnetoencephalography (MEG)
Nathaneil Winston, Dr. Melvin Peters, mentor: Substandard Education, Deindustrialization and Poverty in Detroit, 1980 to the Present