

28 January 2020

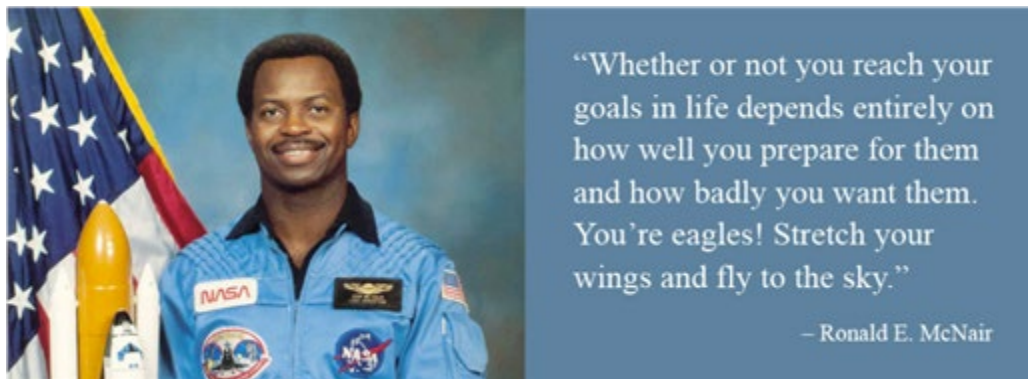


Photo from: <http://mcnair.aa.ufl.edu/about/about-dr-mcnair/>

Dear Colleagues,

January 28<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the Challenger explosion that killed Dr. Ronald E. McNair and his fellow astronauts. This week, you may see folks on campus wearing blue ribbons or “Ask Me About My Ribbon” stickers as one of the ways we are remembering the sacrifices and legacy of Dr. McNair and his family. Dr. McNair’s legacy includes, but is not limited to, the 187 TRiO McNair programs around the country that are specifically funded by the U.S. Department of Education to “prepare eligible participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities (<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html>).”

Winthrop’s McNair program is 10 years old and is funded to serve 30 new or continuing participants from SC institutions each year. Students can come from any major. Two-thirds of each cohort must meet both the first generation and low-income criteria. Up to the remaining 1/3<sup>rd</sup> are eligible because they come from an underrepresented racial or ethnic group.

So far, we have served 143 outstanding students. All of our students have completed high quality research with expert faculty mentors. That experience has opened doors for them and resulted in impressive outcomes for our program. Already this year, our stellar seniors have received an impressive number of interview offers. A few of the long list of schools our students have received graduate admissions offers are: Duke, the Dental College of Georgia, Boston College, Ohio State, and Johns Hopkins.

We have 124 alumni with bachelor’s degrees. The 110 McNair alumni who graduated over a year ago have earned 53 Master’s Degrees, 5 Specialist Degrees, and 10 Doctorates (see table below). Our program could not be so successful without the dedication of faculty mentors, support of the administration (especially President Mahony and Dean Jones), and work of McNair staff & the Advisory Board. We continue to owe huge debts of gratitude to

the folks in Grants, Financial Aid, Records and Registration, Student Services, Campus Housing, Printing Services, Accounts Payable, The Foundation & Alumni Relations, ONCA, Undergraduate Research, Eagle STEM, Honors, ASC, and so many others throughout University College and the institution.

#### Winthrop McNair Scholars Who Earned Doctorates

#	McNair Scholar	Graduation Cohort	Doctoral Degree & Year	Faculty Mentor
10	Dr. Derion Reid	2012-13	PhD Chemistry 2019 <i>Northeastern University</i>	Dr. Takita Sumter
9	Dr. Michael Capps	2011-12	PHD Mathematics 2019 <i>Colorado State University</i>	Dr. Joe Rusinko
8	Dr. Diamond Melendez	2014-15	PharmD 2019 <i>University of Maryland - Baltimore</i>	Dr. Aaron Hartel
7	Dr. Kristin Ramirez	2015-16	DPT 2019 <i>University of Nebraska Medical Center</i>	Dr. Janet Wojcik
6	Dr. Zachary Collier	2012-13	PHD Research & Evaluation Methodology 2018 <i>University of Florida</i>	Dr. Brad Witzel
5	Dr. Ronald Nelson	2011-12	PHD Chemistry 2017 <i>Wake Forest University</i>	Dr. Takita Sumter
4	Dr. Kevin Mayes	2011-12	MD 2017 <i>University of South Carolina</i>	Dr. Christian Grattan
3	Dr. Ashton Brock	2010-11	PHD Chemistry 2016 <i>University of Virginia</i>	Dr. Takita Sumter
2	Dr. Shantelle Igiozee	2012-13	DPT 2016 <i>University of St. Augustine Health Sciences</i>	Dr. Janet Wojcik
1	Dr. Brittany Stapleton-Livingston	2011-12	DPT 2015 <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	Dr. Janet Wojcik Dr. Kim Wilson

For more information about Winthrop's Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, please check out our website ([www.winthrop.edu/mcnair](http://www.winthrop.edu/mcnair)).

We look forward to sharing more good news this summer. The [McNair Advisory Board](#) just invited 17 new students to join the program. We are always recruiting undergraduates for future cohorts, so please recommend potential applicants to us.

Thank you for all you do to support McNair Scholars, staff, and faculty.  
Cheryl

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**Pronouns: She/Her/Hers**