

25 February, 2020

Dear President Mahony, Provost McCormick, Dean Jones, Dean Sumter, and Colleagues,



Friday, I submitted Winthrop's 18-19 McNair annual performance report. This is one of the tasks that I thoroughly enjoy because it allows me to dig into the data and review the continued achievements of our alumni. By the end of last year, our program had served 143 students. This year, the [Advisory Board](#) is adding at least 19 more students to make that 162. Thank you Drs. Belk, Frost, Haire, Hurlbert, Lewis, Powell, Stock, Washington, and Witzel; and Ms. Gray and Black for expanding this opportunity to more students. And, thank you McNair Staff (Ms. Yeager, Bartlett, Goode, and Cavin; and Dr. Hayes) for helping our program be a good steward of our

funds.

I want to take this last opportunity to publicly thank Dr. Mahony for his support of McNair Scholars. Given his focus on student outcomes and showing effectiveness with data, I suspect he'll appreciate these numbers from the 18-19 analyses. Furthermore, the numbers below reflect direct support from Dean Gloria Jones to every McNair Scholar.

- Of our alumni, 108 earned a bachelor's degree, meaning 96% of Winthrop's McNair Scholars persist to graduation.
- Of the 108, 89% went on to graduate school.
- 60 of the 108 have at least one master's degree.
- An additional 10 have doctorates.
- And, at least three of the students who took gap time have offers in hand for next year.
- 12 of our fourteen 2018-19 graduates are in graduate school right now.

Because our program repeatedly meets or exceeds our objectives, we earn prior experience points. These are like bonus credit for the next grant cycle. This year we earned all 13 of 13 possible points. Here's how we performed. To our McNair Mentors: Thank you and Congratulations! These numbers are the direct result of your individualized support of your Scholar(s).

| <i>McNair's federal mandatory objectives are</i> | Winthrop objective for grant years in this funding cycle 2017-2023 | Winthrop achievement for 2018-19 |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <i>% of current undergraduates who completed high quality research with a mentor</i> | 96% | 100% |
| <i>% of current year graduate who enrolled in graduate school immediately</i> | 50% | 79% |
| <i>% of previous year graduates who continued graduate enrollment</i> | 75% | 100% |

*% of graduating cohort from 10 years ago
that earned a PhD*

First measured in 2021-22 (we think)

Bottom line: Thank you Dan and Gloria. You have made Winthrop a better place for your leadership and direct support of students. McNair is just one example of the innumerable ways I am grateful to have had the chance to work with you both for students.

Colleagues, thank you for your continued support of McNair. Our call for two students who meet both the first generation and low-income criteria (regardless of race and ethnicity) ends March 6th. Please encourage strong students to visit <https://www.winthrop.edu/mcnair/application.aspx>.

-Cheryl Fortner-Wood, PhD