

Dear President Mahony, Provost Boyd, and Colleagues,

July 1, 2015

I am writing to share great news about Winthrop's McNair Scholars. The entire campus has earned bragging rights because of the institution-wide support Winthrop's program receives. This is a long message, but just like last year, the punchline is worth the read. Last week, the Scholars presented their work at state and national McNair meetings. Below is the list of the 19 presentations from our 18 summer Scholars' research projects. Each Scholar's project is shepherded by at least one faculty mentor. In several cases, there are additional faculty members not listed who also supported a Scholar's work. Also, several of these students also benefit from participation in the Honors Program, Eagle STEM, and/or TRiO SSS.

Scholar Name		Mentor	Presentation Category	Presentation Title
Cera	Crowe	Dr. Aimee Meader	Poster	How do family background and self-esteem affect an individual's perception of gender-role portrayal in online advertisements?
Lauren	Green	Dr. Matthew Stern	Poster (also gave an oral presentation)	Brain-Penetrating Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor RG2833: A Potential Malignant Melanoma Growth Suppressor
Ethan	Hanner	Dr. Marguerite Doman	Poster	Using a BCI to assess attention during an online lecture
Theresa	Melendez	Dr. Takita Sumter	Poster	Biological Evaluation of Novel Benzisoxazolo[2,3-a] Pyridinium and Quinolinium Tetrafluoroborates as Anticancer Agents
Savannah	Moritzky	Dr. Victoria Frost	Poster	Phylo-grouping and analysis of virulence factors of Escherichia coli found in beach sand
Malyn	Pope	Dr. Merry Sleight	Poster	The Effect of Hairstyle on Perceptions of Black Women's Personality and Earning Potential
Shannon	Snelgrove	Dr. Laura Gardner	Poster	Creating Narratives Through Art as Self-Definition for Black Women
Leigha	Stahl	Dr. Victoria Frost & Dr. Matt Heard	Poster	Creating a microcosm to examine salinity tolerance of Escherichia coli in beach sand
Ashley	Causey	Dr. Jeannie Haubert	Oral – Education	Beyond Whitewashing: Incorporating Multicultural Education in Teacher Preparation Programs
Alexis	Williamson	Dr. Brad Witzel	Oral – Education	Instilling Resilience in Children of Poverty
Jesse	Grainger	Dr. Brent Cagle	Oral - Social Sciences	LGBTQ Emerging Adults: Their Experiences With Homelessness
Emily	Hokett	Dr. Sarah Reiland	Oral – Social Sciences	Cognitive Flexibility and Depression in Relation to Social Support
Taylor	Toves	Dr. Adolphus Belk	Oral – Social Sciences	The Case of Affirmative Action in Undergraduate Admissions in the United States and Brazil
Lauren	Green	Dr. Matthew Stern	Oral – Life Sciences (also presented a poster)	Brain-Penetrating Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor RG2833: A Potential Malignant Melanoma Growth Suppressor
Shawn	Hoskins	Dr. Barak Meir	Oral – Life Sciences	Comparing the tensile and compressive Young's moduli of cortical bone
Jordan	Lewis	Dr. Matt Heard	Oral – Life Sciences	Impacts of Beach Renourishment on the Distribution and Abundance of Escherichia Coli
Kyle	McDaniel	Dr. Julian Smith III	Oral – Life Sciences	A Genetic Confirmation of Temporary Meiofauna in the Meiobenthic Food Web
Jesslyn	Park	Dr. Jason Hurlbert	Oral – Physical Sciences	Expression, purification, and crystallization of an endoxylanase from Bacteroides vulgatus
Olivia	Manley	Dr. Nick Grossoehme	Oral – Physical Sciences	Biophysical characterization of Nur from Streptomyces coelicolor

Every year, I am proud of the caliber of the Scholars' presentations. This year, I witnessed perhaps the best set of presentations in our six years. Based on what I saw and heard from others, Winthrop's presentations ranged from very good to outstanding. You are right to think I might be biased, but I have evidence to support my opinion. Sunday, **Winthrop's Scholars earned five awards at the national McNair meeting** hosted by the Southeastern Association of Equal Opportunity Programs and Personnel (SAEOPP) in Atlanta. Our Scholars competed with peers from other institutions including, but not limited to UC Davis, University of Florida, University of Illinois, UNLV, LSU, Rider, and USC. **In posters, Malyn Pope (Mentor: Dr. Merry Sleight) earned third place and Lauren Green (Mentor: Dr. Matthew Stern) earned first place. Of the Life Science oral presentations, Jordan Lewis (Mentor: Dr. Matt Heard) earned third place and Kyle McDaniel (Mentor: Dr. Julian Smith, III) earned second place. In the Education oral presentation category, Ashley Causey (Mentor: Dr. Jeannie Haubert) earned first place.** These outstanding students earn more than a line on their vitae by placing. These awards come with cash prizes (\$500 for first place).

**Please take a moment to congratulate all 18 of Winthrop's McNair Scholars and their Mentors** for their excellent work during an intense summer program.

There are a lot of folks who helped us get to this point. First and foremost, Dean Gloria Jones, teaches our Scholars about writing during the first week and supports the program on multiple levels. The McNair staff provides Scholars with targeted support: Dr. Matt Hayes (McNair Stats and Methods Coach), Ms. Stephanie Bartlett (our Writing Coach), Barb Yeager (Executive Support Specialist) and Amanda Cavin (McNair alum and GA). Our Scholars couldn't have been successful without the efforts of many folks including, but not limited to, Winthrop's IRB Chair (Dr. Aaron Hartel), Financial Aid folks (especially Michelle Hare), Student Financial Services Folks (especially Judy Baseshore), Residence Life folks (Thank you Dawn Sayer), and Printing Services Folks (Thank you Jill Stuckey and Sibbie Lowery). Our Procurement, Accounts Payable, and SPAR offices have also been working hard to support McNair's mission.

Of course, success all starts with the strategic selections made by our Advisory Board (<http://www.winthrop.edu/mcnair/default.aspx?id=28622>): Dr. Adolphus Belk, Dr. Kareema Gray, Ms. Rose Gray, Dr. Wenonah Haire, Dr. Willis Lewis, Dr. Karen Stock, Dr. Takita Sumter, Dr. Will Thacker, Sarah Wicks (recent graduate, McNair Scholar), Dr. Kim Wilson, Dr. Brad Witzel, Winthrop's McNair Director, and Dr. Nick Grossoehme (who served this year). The Board selected Scholars from the Colleges of VPA, Education, Business, and Arts & Sciences. Sixteen of the summer Scholars are from Winthrop and two are from Clemson. This year, eight of our 11 graduates accepted offers from Winthrop, Duke, Temple, Virginia Tech, Wake Forest, Georgetown, the University of Maryland, and Oklahoma State.

The Winthrop McNair Scholars Program is funded by a five-year renewable U.S. Department of Education TRiO Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program grant (\$220,000/year, 72% of program costs), Winthrop, and the Winthrop Foundation. Each year, the program supports the research and graduate study aspirations of at least 30 undergraduates who show great potential and come from first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented backgrounds. For more information, please visit [www.winthrop.edu/mcnair](http://www.winthrop.edu/mcnair) or contact me.

Thank you, Winthrop, for your help in supporting these outstanding students.

-Cheryl

**Cheryl Fortner-Wood, Ph.D.**

*Director, McNair Scholars Program*

*Associate Professor of Psychology*

**Winthrop University**

104 Dinkins Hall (McNair)

134 Kinard Hall (Psychology)

Rock Hill, SC 29733

803/323-2125 (McNair)

803/323-2641 (Psychology)

