

McNair Scholars

Program



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The McNair Scholars Program is a federally funded program designed to provide research and scholarly activities that promote the acquisition of a doctoral degree for first-generation, low-income and underrepresented college students. The program began in 1989 and is named after Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D. While working on laser physics at the Hughes Research Laboratory, McNair was accepted into the astronaut program and was the second African-American to fly in space. During McNair's second mission, the Challenger exploded 90 seconds into its flight, killing all seven crewmembers.

In honor of McNair's accomplishments, the program seeks to increase the number of minorities pursuing teaching and administrative careers in higher education. In 1995, Wichita State received funding from the U.S. Department of Education to begin the McNair Scholars Program. The program provides services to ensure that participants graduate with bachelor's degrees and enter graduate programs leading to doctoral degrees. The program serves 28 students each year and is funded through 2017.

Program Services

- Writing skills development and tutoring
- Research methods course
- Faculty-led seminars, graduate preparation seminars and research assembly meetings
- Personalized mentoring from faculty
- GRE preparation

2015-2016 Highlights

40 program alumni are currently enrolled in graduate programs

3 alumni received a master's degree in 2016

7 alumni are currently enrolled in doctoral programs

17 alumni graduated with doctoral degrees since 1995

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