



# “The Doctor” McNair Scholars Program

## Letter from the Director

Greetings Scholars, I would like to welcome you to the 2015 – 2016 academic year, where we are celebrating “Perseverance.” The McNair Program has been on the campus of Wichita State University for 20 years and we have made great strides in assisting students to pursue their dreams of a graduate degree. I am so excited as we embark on new ideas and ways to assist our scholars as we look back at the gains that we have made as well as the new heights that we can reach over the next 20 years.



The staff and I encourage you to work hard and take advantage of all that the program has to offer, such as:

- Writing Tutor
- McWrite Workshops
- Resume and Vitae Writing
- Leadership Discovery Summit

We are here to support you and foster your success. Know that this road can be difficult, but your hard work can and will pay off. I recently read a quote that said, “Don’t Let the Small Obstacles Prevent the Great Successes.” There is something great in store for you on this journey, don’t be distracted by the small things along the way.

I look forward to getting to know each of you better as the year progresses. Stop by and say hello and let me know how things are going and if there is anything that I or the staff can do to help you along this journey as you plan and prepare to pursue your graduate education.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,

LaWanda Holt-Fields

## 2015 - 2016 McNair Scholars

The McNair Scholars Program is off to an excellent start for the 2015 - 2016 academic year, with students participating in activities to become familiar with the graduate school process and scholarly research. The McNair staff welcomes the following scholars:



Alissa Bey*	Sanjuana Martinez*
Kerisha Broadus*	Jasmine Mayorga
Nicholus Cox*	Brandon Moore
Nephi Escobar*	Rosa Palacio*
Jose Esquivel*	Zachary Pearson*
Shawna Fitz	Elizabeth Ramirez
Joy Foster*	Veronica Ramirez
Vera Gantt	Timothy Rollings*
Logan Gisick*	Elvin Salerno
Jesus Gonzalez	Martina Salerno*
Alexus Grace*	M. Gaby Valverde
Kevontrez Jones*	Alvine Wetiba
Khoi Lam*	Anna Wray*

\*indicates returning students

## Graduate Preparation Deadlines:

The following deadlines have been set to assist students in their preparation for graduate school applications. Please submit the following items by the dates listed. McNair Program Counselor and Writing Tutor are available to assist you in meeting these deadlines.

**October 16** Resume/Vitae

**October 30** Graduate School Selection Worksheet

**November 30** Personal Statement

# Grammatically Speaking: *Incorporating Transitions*

In both academic and professional writing, your goal is to convey information clearly and concisely. Transitions help you to achieve these goals by establishing logical connections between sentences, paragraphs, and sections of your papers. In other words, transitions tell readers what to do with the information you present to them.

Whether single words, quick phrases, or full sentences, transitions function as signs that provide the reader with directions for how to piece together your ideas into a logically coherent argument.



## Furthermore

In providing the reader with these important cues, transitions help readers understand the logic of how your ideas fit together.



## Specifically

The organization of your written work includes two elements: (1) the order in which you have chosen to present the different parts of your discussion or argument, and (2) the relationships you construct between these parts. Transitions cannot substitute for good organization, but they can make your organization clearer and easier to follow.



## For Example

Notice the subtle changes in the relationship between the two ideas in the following sentences.

- The toddler cried, **and** Tom listened helplessly.
- The toddler cried **while** Tom introduced her to the sitter.
- The toddler cried **because** Tom was putting on his coat.
- The toddler cried, **so** Tom gave her a cookie.

Sources: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/transitions/>; <http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb/trans1.html>; Glen, C. & Gray, L. (2013). *The Hodges Harbrace Handbook 18th Ed.*

## Examples of Transitional Expressions

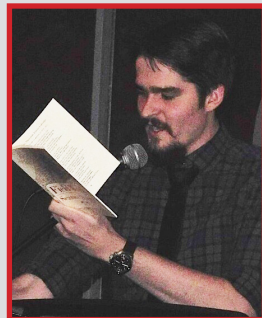
Including



Logical Relationship	Transitional Expression
Similarity	also, in the same way, just as ... so too, likewise, similarly
Exception/Contrast	On the contrary, however, in spite of, on the one hand ... on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, in contrast, conversely, still, yet
Example	for example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate
Emphasis	indeed, in fact, certainly, again
Details	specifically, especially, in particular, to explain, to list, to enumerate, in detail, namely, including
Cause and Effect	accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus
Conclusion/Summary	finally, in brief, briefly, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in summary
Suggestion	For this purpose, to this end, with this in mind, with this purpose in mind

## McNair Writing Tutor, Noah Trammell

Noah is available to work with McNair Scholars to provide individual assistance to help you improve your writing skills.



Grammar/Punctuation Usage

Paper Organization

Individualized Assistance

## Fall 2015 Writing Tutor Schedule

*Drop in hours, McNair Office*

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

*By Appointment Only*

Monday/  
Wednesday 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

## Research Proposal Deadline

Research proposals for the 2015 - 2016 McNair grant year are due on September 18, 2015. Begin to identify a faculty member who is willing to work with you. Learn more about that process during the September Research Assembly Meeting.

*Intro to Research/Writing a Proposal*, Noah Trammell  
**Date:** Friday, September 4 (DH 106), 3 - 4 p.m.

Elvin Salerno • 9/17

Gaby Valverde • 9/22

Anna Wray • 9/23

Brandon Moore • 9/30

Sanjuana Martinez • 10/21

Ashley Cervantes • 10/12

Alexus Grace • 11/1

Veronica Ramirez • 11/12

Jose Esquivel • 11/13



*to those celebrating during the months of September, October, and November:*

## McNair Student Achievements

Featured below are two notable student achievements this semester.



**Kevontrez Jones** received a scholarship from the engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi. Awardees are selected based on high class ranking, strong faculty recommendations and unusual promise of substantial achievement that will advance the interest of the engineering profession.



**Timothy Rollings** was selected by the Center for Science of Information to participate the Channels Program, a competitive, paid, academic-year program that provides undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in a research experience related to information theory.

## Events to Come

SEPTEMBER	4	Devlin Hall, Rm 106 <b>Grad Prep Meeting</b> (2 - 3 p.m.) Jill Pletcher, " <i>Vitae Writing</i> " <b>Research Assembly Meeting</b> (3 - 4 p.m.) Noah Trammell, " <i>Intro to Research/Writing a Proposal</i> "
	12	Devlin Hall, Rm 106 <b>Faculty Led Seminar</b> (10 a.m. - noon) LaWanda Holt-Fields, " <i>Time and Stress Management</i> "
	18	Devlin Hall, Rm 106 <b>Grad Seminar</b> (2 - 3 p.m.) Ashley Cervantes, " <i>Grad School Apps/Funding</i> " <b>Research Proposals Due</b>
OCTOBER	2	Devlin Hall, Rm 106 <b>Grad Prep Meeting</b> (2 - 3 p.m.) Ashley Cervantes, " <i>Grad School Bingo</i> " Ablah Library, Rm 217 <b>Research Assembly Meeting</b> (3 - 4 p.m.) Angela Paul, " <i>Library Database Tour</i> "
	16	Devlin Hall, Rm 106 <b>McWrite</b> (2 - 3 p.m.) Noah Trammell, " <i>Intro to Writing Styles</i> "
	17	Devlin Hall, Rm 106 <b>Faculty Led Seminar</b> (10 a.m. - noon) Michael Heppler, " <i>Personal Statement Writing</i> "
NOVEMBER	23	Devlin Hall, Rm 106 <b>Grad Seminar</b> (2 - 3 p.m.) Micheal Birzer, " <i>Selecting a Mentor/Professionalism</i> "
	6	Devlin Hall, Rm 106 <b>McWrite</b> (2 - 3 p.m.) Noah Trammell, " <i>The Literature Review</i> " Ablah Library, Rm 217 <b>Research Assembly Meeting</b> (3 - 4 p.m.) Library Services, " <i>Library End Note Training</i> "
	13	Rhatigan Student Center <b>Leadership Discovery Summit</b> (2 - 3 p.m.) Registration opens October 1, 2015
	20	McNair Office <b>Program Meeting</b> (11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.) " <i>Closing the Semester/Holiday Feast</i> "



## *Someone Like Me: Tyson McMillan, Ph.D.*



*Dr. McMillan participated in the McNair Scholars Program on the West Texas A&M campus. He was recognized as a TRIO Achiever by the Texas Association of Student Special Services Program in 2014. Below are his remarks about his educational journey and the impact TRIO had on his success.*

I was born in Lubbock, Texas. My parents, Danny and Marcy McMillan, had me when they were just 17 years old. We had humble beginnings, but I was raised by a village of wise people. Perseverance, persistence, patience, and spirituality were central to my upbringing. The members of this wise village taught me the importance of family and good food. Education, teaching, and learning have always been essential components of my life.

Each day I am reminded that I stand on the shoulders of giants who came before me. As a first generation college student, I am proud to acknowledge the many giants who paved the way for me. Among them are my grandfather Vance Harris (Papa) and grandmother Marcnellus Harris (Big Mama)—both of whom recently passed away. When I recall the strength of Papa and the solid rock influence of Big Mama, I maintain the persistence to fight for my dreams and *carpe diem* in life.

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*Perseverance, persistence, patience, and spirituality were central to my upbringing. Education, teaching, and learning have always been essential components of my life.*

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I was there at the moment when Big Mama had her last breath on earth. That day was the most traumatic experience of my young life. At the time of her passing, I was months away from completing my dream to become the first person in the history of my family to obtain a doctoral degree. It is on the wings of the memory of this great woman that I completed my doctoral journey in 2013.

I am on a mission in life to educate other people as I myself become educated, and to mentor other people as I myself received mentorship. I began my college journey at the beautiful West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) in 2001. It is on that campus that I discovered the power and greatness of TRIO programs. The McNair Scholars Program molded me from a first generation college student into a present-day scholar. The Program took me under their wings of kindness and educated me on what it takes to succeed in the academic world beyond the bachelor's degree. Each day, I strive to reciprocate such kindness to other people. If I do so with even half the class and passion of these great mentors, it will bring a smile to my heart. At WTAMU, I completed a baccalaureate degree in Computer Information Systems in 2005. A highlight of my life was giving the commencement speech at my own graduation.

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*The Dr. Ronald McNair Scholars program molded me from a first generation college student into a present-day scholar. This devoted team of mentors educated me on what it takes to succeed in the academic world beyond the bachelor's degree.*

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In 2005, my educational journey took me to the University of North Texas (UNT). At UNT, I was again the proud recipient of TRIO's kindness through a \$14,000 McNair fellowship. In 2006, I completed an M.S. in Information Technologies at UNT. Keeping the momentum, I started doctoral studies at UNT in August 2007, and completed a Ph.D. in Information Science in July 2013.

Indeed, I teach to learn. What a great honor and privilege it is to experience the wonderful diversity on the beautiful Trinity River Campus of Tarrant County College in downtown Fort Worth! I proudly serve as an Associate Professor of Computer Science, and am a founding faculty member of the campus. My teaching philosophy continues to revolve around educating other people as I myself become educated. To me, education is a two-way street; that is, I learn just as much from the students that I have the privilege of teaching.

Source: <http://www.txtrio.org/trio-achievers>

**TRIO**  
**WORKS!**

## Grad Connect: *Personal Statement Writing*

Your graduate school personal statement may get only five minutes of an admissions officer's attention. In those five minutes you have to show that you are a good pick for the school. Below are a few tips for crafting a short but effective graduate school essay that will stand out.

### **Tell Your Story**

Explain why you want to study the field you've chosen, and why you want to study it at their school. Storytelling is an effective way to convey your motivation, commitment and the experiences that drive you. A brief anecdote can be impactful. However, you want your story to relate to why you are applying to a particular school. Develop a nice segue from your story to a description of your goals and what you hope to achieve by pursuing your degree.

### **Tailor Your Essay For Each Program**

Let the school know why you've chosen them. Ideally, you should relate those reasons to your story. Although, it might be hard to do and do not include it if it is not true! Avoid discussing rankings, gushing about how prestigious the school is, or even tossing in generic praise. Admission committees see right through such tactics.

Your personal statement will be more impressive if you can make relevant mention of a faculty member or two and some of their work. That shows you have taken some time to research the school. You want to demonstrate that you know the school, that the school is the right place for you, and that you're the right student for the school.

### **Follow Directions**

Always read the application instructions carefully. Some graduate school essays ask for statements of purpose describing specific research interests in lieu of, or in addition to, personal statements that emphasize character and qualities. You might write a beautiful graduate school essay, but if you don't meet the expectations of the application, you haven't done yourself any favors!

Source: <https://www.petersons.com/graduate-schools/write-graduate-school-essay.aspx>

### **For Additional Advice**

Attend October's Faculty Led Seminar  
*Personal Statement Writing*, Mike Heppler

**Date:** Saturday, October 17 (DH 106)

**Time:** 10 a.m. - noon

## *McNair Events*



Dr. Shchommer-Aikins led the Summer Research Seminar for prospective McNair researchers.



McNair and EPSCoR scholars pose for a group photo at the 20th Annual Closing Symposium.



McNair Students share information about their research during the Bradley Cole Poster Board Competition.



McNair Students interview one another as an icebreaker activity during the August 14, 2015 Program Orientation.



Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Deltha Q. Colvin and Executive Assistant Shanda Burch examine a student poster.



Zachary Pearson and Elvin Salerno participate in the McNair Program Orientation.



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

TRIO PROGRAMS

McNair Scholars Program



## McNair Scholars Program

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## McNair Fee Waivers/Fellowships

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), in conjunction with the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), has compiled a list of McNair incentives to help Scholars find graduate schools that offer application fee waivers and/or fellowships and other opportunities that are available to McNair Scholars.

This list can be found at [http://www.coenet.us/coe\\_prod\\_imis/COE/TRIO/McNair\\_Fee\\_Waiver\\_List/COE/NAV\\_TRIO/McNair\\_Scholars\\_Fee\\_Waiver\\_List.aspx?hkey=d459a62a-5577-4103-b125-8c3bb8aa5029](http://www.coenet.us/coe_prod_imis/COE/TRIO/McNair_Fee_Waiver_List/COE/NAV_TRIO/McNair_Scholars_Fee_Waiver_List.aspx?hkey=d459a62a-5577-4103-b125-8c3bb8aa5029)

### Highlighted Fellowship:

University of Alabama Graduate School awards a limited number of McNair Graduate Fellowships. To be considered for the fellowship, a student must be admitted to a degree-seeking program. Preference is given to students who have completed a McNair program and have been accepted into a Ph.D. program at The University of Alabama.

The service-free stipend for these fellowships is \$15,000 for the academic year plus a scholarship to pay full tuition for up to 15 hours for fall and spring semesters in each academic year. The Graduate School will provide single health insurance coverage for each recipient. A student must be enrolled full-time and maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average to remain eligible for the fellowship.

### “The Doctor”

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Noah Trammell, Writing Tutor

## McNair Facts: Did You Know?

Ronald McNair attended Carver High School where he played football, basketball, ran track and excelled at baseball. He also loved music and played both clarinet and saxophone.



Valedictorian of his senior class, McNair applied to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Initially intending to major in music, McNair changed to physics after a counselor encouraged him to pursue a career in science.

## Notice of Nondiscrimination

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation, status as a veteran, genetic information or disability.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita KS 67260-0205; telephone (316) 978-3186.