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McNair Scholars Program



2016-2017 Highlights

28 Students Served



Serves College Sophomores,
Juniors and Seniors



9 Students Accepted Into a
Graduate Program



\$63,491 Awarded Scholarships



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The McNair Scholars Program is federally funded and 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, PhD. The purpose of the program is to increase the number of minorities pursuing teaching and administrative careers in higher education. 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 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.

Core Program Services:

- Freshmen students in the STEM fields are assisted with college acclimation and student success
- Writing skills development and tutoring
- Research methods course
- Faculty-led seminars, graduate preparation seminars and research assembly meetings
- Personalized mentoring from faculty
- GRE preparation
- Graduate school campus visits