Message from the Dean

Mary A. Seeger
Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mcnair

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mcnair/vol2/iss1/1
The second cycle of the Grand Valley State University Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program has been both exhilarating and challenging. It has been exhilarating, because we have had the privilege to personally experience the excitement of the students, many of whom had not previously considered the possibility of graduate education. It has been challenging, because we have had to make every effort to ensure that the program lives up to the institution as well as the program goals: to prepare first generation, low income students to pursue graduate studies, specifically the doctoral degree.

For their support I offer my sincere gratitude to the Grand Valley State University faculty mentors who have provided exceptional guidance to the McNair scholars in the research phase of the program.

Finally, I want to thank the McNair program staff for their commitment to the program as well as the students. When one reads the abstracts from the research, it will become evident that the students as well as the staff have done a fine job.

Mary A. Seeger, Dean
Academic Resources and Special Programs
Ronald Erwin McNair was born October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina, to Carl and Pearl McNair. He attended North Carolina A&T State University where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. degree in physics in 1971. McNair then enrolled in the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1976, at the age of 26, he earned his Ph.D. in physics. McNair soon became a recognized expert in laser physics while working as a staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratory. He was selected by NASA for the space shuttle program in 1978 and was a mission specialist aboard the 1984 flight of the USS Challenger space shuttle.

After his death in the USS Challenger space shuttle accident in January 1986, members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The goal is to encourage low-income, first generation students, as well as students who are traditionally under-represented in graduate schools, to expand their opportunities by pursuing graduate studies.

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

The Purpose
The McNair Scholars Program is designed to prepare highly talented undergraduates to pursue doctoral degrees and to increase the number of individuals (from the target group) on college and university faculties.

Who are McNair Scholars?
The McNair Scholars are highly talented undergraduate students who are from families with no previous college graduate, low-income background or groups under-represented at the graduate level for doctoral studies. The program accepts students from all disciplines.

Program Services
The McNair Scholars are matched with faculty research mentors. They receive academic counseling, mentoring, advising, and GRE preparation. In addition to the above services, the McNair Scholars have opportunities to attend research seminars, conduct research, and present their finding orally or written via poster presentations. In the first semester of their senior year, the scholars receive assistance with the graduate school application process.

Funding
The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is a TRIO Program funded through the United States Department of Education and Grand Valley State University.