The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program prepares high achieving first-generation, low-income and underrepresented undergraduate students for admission into graduate school to pursue master's and doctoral degrees. Participants prepare for graduate school by attending seminars, advisement and completion of a faculty-mentored research project. Benefits include free travel opportunities, a research stipend, graduate school application fee waivers and intensive support during the graduate school application process. The McNair Program is funded by the U.S. Dept of Education through a five-year grant (2018-2022).

Mission

To prepare first-generation, low income and underrepresented students for graduate school with the eventual goal of earning master’s degrees and a Ph.D.s.

Vision

Create a community of scholars that inspire each other to the highest degree!
Alumni of our program have earned graduate school degrees from over 90 universities nationwide and even overseas. Our participants gain access to high quality research training and academic and professional guidance that they would not otherwise have had. Students are taught the fundamentals of research and work under the mentorship of a faculty member to develop a project. They are also supported through the process of studying for the GRE, and applying to graduate programs. These opportunities are typically difficult for undergraduate students to participate in, particularly those from the targeted backgrounds. At the end of their undergraduate degrees, participants in the program are prepared for graduate education in research-intensive fields. Past participants have attended numerous prestigious universities (Yale, Harvard, UC-Berkeley, etc.), receiving full funding while pursuing their graduate degrees.

McNair Scholars Program: Because our students conduct and present research (among faculty) our programming is aimed at teaching our students professionalism, research skills, communication skills, critical thinking and collaboration. McNair served 28 students.

Target Population: First-generation, low-income and underrepresented students. McNair must serve 28 students with 2/3 being both 1st generation and low-income and at least ½ STEM Majors (we met those numbers).

All 5 UNM5 skills were addressed through our programming.

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<td>McNair Budget—U.S. Dept. of Education</td>
<td>$254,329</td>
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Goals for 2019-20

1. Recruit the proper number of first-generation, low income and underrepresented undergraduates with 3.0+ GPA and at least 60 earned credits
2. ½ of recruits should be STEM majors and 2/3 should be both 1st generation to college AND low income
3. Require students to complete a faculty mentored research project as part of the summer internship program
4. Require that student participants attend monthly seminars and one-on-one advisement
5. 65% of McNair Program bachelor’s degree recipients will be accepted and enrolled in a post baccalaureate program of study by the fall term of the academic year immediately following the completion of the bachelor’s degree

Selected Impacts and Outcomes

- Of the 12 McNair participants that graduated in the 2018-2019 academic year, 11 were accepted to degree seeking graduate programs and 10 matriculated to graduate school in fall 2019 at the following universities: UNM, George Washington University, University of North Carolina, University of California - Berkeley, University of California – Los Angeles, Virginia Tech University, Colorado School of Mines, New York University, and Rice University.
- 100% of our scholars continued into subsequent semesters or graduated in 2018-2019
- 100% of our participants conducted a faculty- mentored research project in the 2018-2019
- 2 of our scholars, Mische Hubbard and Marissa Perez, each earned National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships in the spring of 2019. This is one of the most prestigious fellowships in the country.

Quick Facts

McNair STATS from 1999 thru fall 2018:
- 437 McNair students served at the University of New Mexico
- 421 Bachelor’s degrees earned
- 199 Master’s degrees earned
- 44 doctoral degrees earned
- 89 still enrolled in degree seeking graduate programs
UNM President Stokes posing with our scholars in April 2018

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