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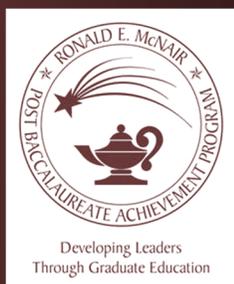
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www.CPP.Edu/~McNair
Facebook: McNairCPP
Scholars

CPP Faculty Position Openings - /www.cpp.edu/~faculty-affairs/open-positions/

McNair Scholars

Since the inception of the program in 1999, the McNair Scholars Program at Cal Poly Pomona has served over 300 students and 44 have completed their doctorates so far, with 83 additional scholars currently in graduate school!

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these scholars and hope that their accomplishments inspire everyone to reach for the stars and pursue their dreams.



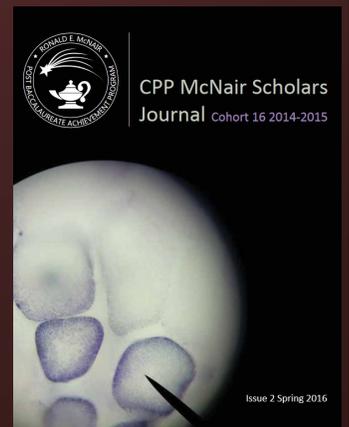
Presenting the McNair Scholars Journal found exclusively on Bronco Scholar!

Bronco Scholar is Cal Poly Pomona's institutional repository. The digital content housed in this repository is accessible, durable, and permanent.

The McNair Scholar's Program is proud to

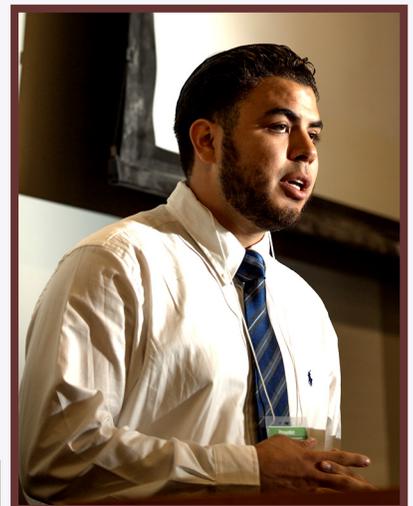
present two CPP McNair Scholar's Journals that can be accessed through Bronco Scholar. The projects presented in these journals are the culmination of the research and scholarly papers from McNair Scholars. Check it out at:

Broncoscholar.library.cpp.edu/handle/10211.3/106115



Save the date! The 18th Annual Symposium is June 2nd, 2017

Pictured: Dean Coco, Cohort 17



Director's Message

The McNair Scholars Program is dedicated to helping low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona advance into graduate programs across the nation. I hope this newsletter will give you a glimpse of the wonderful things current and past scholars are doing. Our tremendous success is due to the dedication of staff that has served the program over the past 17 years, the brilliant and wonderful students, and the support of the university, the broader community, and the U.S. Department of Education. If you would like to help us continue to thrive, please consider one of these ways:

Sharing Your Successes

With a new federal administration, it is especially important these next few years to let your congressional representatives know what the McNair Scholars Program has allowed you to achieve. Congress sets the budget for the McNair Program. By speaking up for the program, you will help congressional members see the importance of investing in future leaders and prevent funding cuts. To contact your elected officials, go to www.house.gov/representatives/find and www.senate.gov/senators/contact.

Supporting the Scholars

Presenting research results at professional conferences is one of the best ways for a scholar to get noticed by potential graduate faculty mentors as well as providing invaluable opportunities for networking. Additionally, scholars are encouraged to visit graduate schools and attend recruitment events.

With your help, we have instituted a new scholarship, available to McNair Scholars, ranging between \$500 to \$2,000. Please help by sending donations to the McNair Scholars Program at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/?key=calpolyadvancement>.

Thank you. I hope you will stop by and say hello the next time you are near Cal Poly Pomona.

Sincerely,

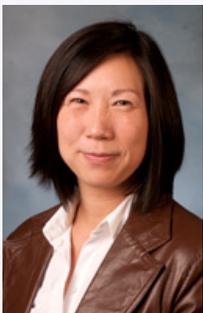
Dr. Winny Dong



Introducing the 2016-2017 McNair Scholars

Hector Alarcon Biology Dr. Chantal Stieber	Marysol Gonzalez Psychology Dr. Alejandro Morales	Marisol Torres Biology Dr. Joan Leong
Kimberly Alvarez GEMs Dr. Jose-Aguilar-Hernandez	Joseph Gunderson Computer Science Dr. Fang (Daisy) Tang	Huong Tran Chemical Engineering Dr. Laila Jallo
Vaneese Brown Microbiology Dr. Jamie Snyder	Daisy Hernandez Environmental Biology Dr. Edward Bobich	Tammy Wong Communications Dr. Dorothea Viale
Christopher Calle Mechanical Engineering Dr. Yong X. Gan	Sergio Maldonado Psychology Dr. Alejandro Morales	Jesus Acevedo Electrical Engineering Dr. Hyoung Soo Kim
Ali Chahine Aerospace Engineering Dr. Frank Chandler	Steven Ochoa Mechanical Engineering Dr. Ravi Vilupanur	Brandi Wooten Physics Dr. Ertan Salik
Matthew Galazzo Chemical Engineering Dr. Floyd Klavetter	Joshua Palacios Political Science Dr. Marc Scarcelli	Luis Rubalcava Dr. Alvaro Huerta Urban & Regional Planning
Patricia Galvan Animal Science Dr. Shelton Murinda	Erwin Perez Aerospace Engineer Dr. Subodh Bhandari	Brittany Banner Political Science Dr. Mario Guerrero
Jordan Garratt Psychology Dr. Robert Blumenfeld	Jesus Preciado Plant Science Dr. Bharti Sharma	Elizabeth Marquez Biology Dr. Nancy Buckley
	Jessica Saucedo Psychology Dr. Sara Langford	

The McNair Scholars Program Team



Dr. Winnie Dong
Director



Dr. Wei Bidlack
Program Faculty Advisor



Dr. Frank Torres
Director Emeritus



Elena Alvarez Villegas
Project Coordinator



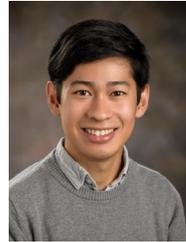
Katherine Azurin
Assis. Project Coordinator

Check out where some of our graduated scholars are headed...



Audrey Aday
McNair Cohort 17
First-year student at the
University of British Columbia
Ph.D. Program in Social-
Personality Psychology

“The McNair Scholars Program allowed me to discover my passion for research and academia. My ultimate goal is to become a professor of social psychology at a four-year university and to mentor underrepresented students in the academic community.”



Christian Garrido
McNair Cohort 16
First-year student at
Wright State University
Ph.D. Program in Biomedical
Sciences

“The McNair Scholars Program’s commitment to mentoring and improving professional communication skills kept me grounded and prepared me as a competitive applicant. In the future I want to develop early diagnosis tools to detect drug-resistant viral pathogens.”



David Vega
McNair Cohort 16
First-year student at the
University of Arizona
Ph.D. Program in Optical
Sciences

“I am fully aware that obtaining my Ph.D. will not be easy, but the McNair Scholars Program prepared me to confront difficulties as they come up. As a physicist interested in optics, I plan to learn the interactions of cancer with light and how to apply imaging for early cancer detection.”



Jessenya Hernandez
McNair Cohort 16
First-Year student at
The University of Chicago at
Urbana-Champaign
Ph.D. Program in Sociology

“The McNair program basically helped me with everything from providing me with training to get into graduate school to what comes after I obtain my Ph.D. When I finish my degree, I plan to work in the CSU system and become faculty.”



Renee Estephan
McNair Cohort 16
First-year student at
City of Hope
Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences

“The McNair Scholars Program provided me with the opportunity to communicate the importance of my research with my fellow cohort members and the campus community. As of right now, I would like to work for a biotech company as a project manager.”

Thank you Ronald E. McNair!

The McNair Scholars Program builds a community for students interested in research and creates an environment to help students advance that research.

- Ryan Kao

I feel more rounded as a scholar and a researcher because of the McNair Scholars Program. I have gained the confidence I need to pursue a graduate degree.

- Dean Coco

The McNair Scholars Program has allowed me to mature as a researcher and has shown me that there is a place that helps first-generation students achieve their goal of going to graduate school.

- German Lagunas-Robles

Through McNair, I have learned so much about graduate school that I wouldn't have learned from anywhere else and it truly helped immerse me in my research.

- Asma Ayyad

Before I started as a McNair scholar, I didn't really see the benefits of graduate school but the program has really shown me how important going to graduate school is.

- Issac Guzman

McNair has made me feel more motivated to pursue my Ph.D. and has taught me the steps necessary to apply and survive a graduate program.

- Mark Alonzo

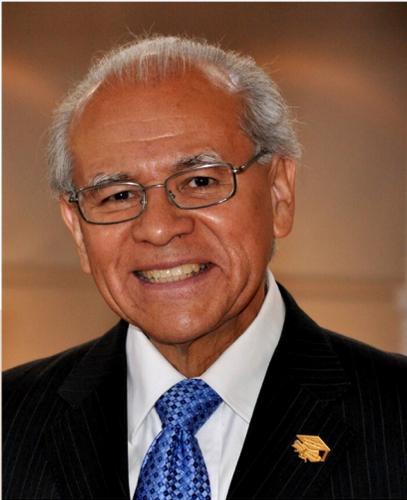
My McNair research showed me the realities of the research process and I learned that undergraduate research can make a difference.

- Su Yeon Kim

Completing the research I did as a McNair Scholar makes me look forward to the work I'll be doing in graduate school.

- Marwa Mhtar

From Cohort 17



Featured Faculty Profile

Dr. Frank Torres, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus in the Department of English and Foreign Languages

Director Emeritus of the McNair Scholars Program

Ph.D. in English from New Mexico State University

On January 20th, 1961, President John F. Kennedy addressed the nation. His famous words, “ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,” were heard by a first-generation high school student that would grow to become a professor here at Cal Poly Pomona. Those words inspired Dr. Frank Torres to dedicate his life to service. “I think his speech inspired a lot of people,” Dr. Torres recalls, “a lot of my friends ended up volunteering for the Peace Corps, a lot of them ended up doing volunteer work, and, for myself, I wanted to change the world, just like anyone else.”

At first, Dr. Torres pursued the priesthood as his mode of service. During his time at the seminary, Dr. Torres realized that he was passionate about teaching and that he wanted to work with students. He found that “another way of helping people and of working with people was through education.” Dr. Torres soon started to pursue his masters in English from the University of Washington as a first-generation college student. While his parents were supportive of his pursuit of education, his mother, father, and grandmother never completed school above elementary level in Mexico. “My grandmother,” he smiled, “looked at me like I was wasting my time.”

As a first-generation student, Dr. Torres realized the importance and power of mentors. His mentors were “people who kept me on track, kept me on target, and they helped me all the way through.” During his time at Cal Poly Pomona, Dr. Torres founded the McNair Scholars Program on campus in 1999, a TRIO SSS program for faculty-mentored undergraduate research for low-income and first-generation or underrepresented students.

For all students interested in research, both at the graduate and undergraduate level, Dr. Torres has three bits of advice. First, whether picking a graduate program or a mentor for a project “you’ve looked into some of the faculty, you’ve talked to some of the faculty, [and] you’ve read their research articles.” Second, to pick not just one, “but, if at all possible, two, maybe even three mentors.” While having one main mentor is standard, Dr. Torres shares that his mentor “was terrific, but I also found other faculty that were also good that were doing what I was doing and they also had excellent advice.” Finally, to find other students who are “serious about finishing up their degree” so “they can encourage each other and keep in touch” and to not just network, but “party with someone, you know, who will drop a pearl of wisdom when you least expect it.”

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Dr. Priscilla Antunez, McNair Cohort 9

B.S. in Chemistry from Cal Poly Pomona in 2009

Ph.D. in Chemistry from USC in 2014

Dissertation Title: Solution-Phase Synthesis and Deposition of Earth-Abundant Metal Chalcogenide Semiconductors

Dr. Priscilla Antunez began as a community college student and wasn't really sure if graduate school was for her even after transferring to Cal Poly Pomona. "My parents were concerned that I was staying in school too long," but she eventually turned them around when she "successfully 'sold' friends and family on the idea of grad school as a 'job' in which I was not going to pay for tuition anymore."

Through her research as part of the McNair Scholars Program and her experience at an REU, she felt that she was not just an experienced researcher before entering graduate school but felt that "I could actually contribute to my field" of chemistry. In graduate school at USC, she was able to navigate the dissertation process through the advice of her advisor and from postdocs working in her lab. She also found community support at USC through the Women in Science and Engineering group, the Women in Chemistry Group, SACNAS, and a Writing Group.

For future scholars, Dr. Antunez shares that one of the most important things you will do is find the right fit for yourself in lab. "Picking a research group is one of the most important decisions you'll make," she shares. "The research and people might change, but the culture and overall track record of the advisor will likely not. Take your time."



Dr. Lisa Moorhead, McNair Cohort 9

B.A. in Sociology from Cal Poly Pomona in 2008

M.A. in Sociology from Ohio State University in 2010

Ph.D. in Sociology from Ohio State University in 2014

Dissertation Title: Three Essays on Organizational Context and Incivility in Schools and Workplaces

Dr. Lisa Moorhead started at Cal Poly Pomona fresh from high school as an animal science major, but soon realized that she did not want to pursue a career in veterinarian medicine. She soon found that sociology "provided answers to questions that I did not even realize I was asking. I learned about root causes of racism and sexism and realized that I wanted to know more about inequality." Dr. Moorhead's choice led her to a sociology graduate program at Ohio State University where she would obtain both her M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology.

During her time in graduate school, her focus narrowed from inequality to bullying in schools and workplaces, which led to her dissertation subject. She notes that the research and writing she did for the McNair Scholar's Program helped her understand what was required of her for her future graduate studies: "Without McNair, I would not have known how to write research papers." Writing her dissertation was difficult, but "the most exciting part of the whole process was at the end of the dissertation defense when my committee told me that I passed."

Dr. Moorhead has a word of advice for current McNair scholars: "Take advantage of all the opportunities you have with the McNair program. It is an amazing program. And, once you get to graduate school, make sure you take your support network with you and develop a new local support network as well."

About Trio and the McNair Scholars Program

The Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) are Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO includes eight programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

Designed to assist first-generation, low-income students and those who are underrepresented at the graduate and doctoral level, the program at Cal Poly Pomona was first funded in 1999. The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program is named for Dr. Ronald E. McNair, one of those who perished aboard the space shuttle Challenger in January 1986.

The McNair Scholars Program at Cal Poly Pomona is a one- or two-year program designed to improve students' research skills and prepare them for entering graduate schools and advanced study. This education grant provides an internship opportunity for students to learn how to do research, present their findings at a summer symposium and at national conferences, and successfully apply for and enter graduate school. Through the efforts of the students themselves, the faculty mentors, and the program staff, these students can achieve their goals.



Dr. Ronald E. McNair

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