



Welcome, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholar!

Congratulations and welcome to the highly successful Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program at The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. We are excited about your participation in the program. You are one of a select group of students chosen for your interest in and potential for graduate study. We are very pleased that you have joined this program, as we celebrate our 7th year.

The McNair Scholars Program is designed to enhance your research skills and strengthen your education as you prepare for graduate study. All activities are calculated to give you an edge in the competition for admission to graduate schools!

Our purpose is reflected in our mission statement: *To assist McNair scholars with the pursuit of their academic goals; and to provide scholars with the necessary tools for a successful graduate education.*

Together, we will prepare you for success in doctoral study, and beyond.

Welcome!

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U.S. Department of Education TRiO Programs

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh received an initial five-year grant through the U.S. Department of Education for the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program in October 2007.

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is a graduate school preparatory program which began its services nationally to students in 1989. Since its inception, more than 20,000 McNair scholars participated in the program and over 110 McNair scholars earned a doctoral degree. McNair serves low-income, first-generation college students, and students historically underrepresented in graduate school, encouraging them to consider careers in college/university teaching and preparing them for doctoral study. Programs focus on students who are motivated and academically ready to prepare for doctoral studies.

A particular focus of the McNair program is providing **research** opportunities for students in which each is paired with a **faculty research mentor**. Students receive in-depth information on the graduate school application process through **seminars** and **internships**, and are **networked** with professionals in their field through membership in professional organizations. **Wisconsin has 12 McNair programs.**

Student Support Services operate at approximately 949 colleges and universities including UWO serving more than 1,968,940 students. Their mission is to increase the **retention** and **graduation rates** of the low-income, first-generation students enrolled, as well as to increase the number of students **transferring** from two-year to four-year institutions. Students are provided **academic counseling, personal support, tutoring** and **remedial instruction.**

TRiO refers to a group of approximately 2,880* education programs in the nation funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. These programs include Upward Bound programs, Upward Bound Mathematics/Science programs, Veterans Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search programs, Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Programs, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, Training Grants, and Dissemination Partnership Grants. **There are 40 TRiO programs in Wisconsin that serve over 14,000 students.** The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh has 2 TRiO programs, and serves 325 students annually.

TRiO programs help approximately 800,000 disadvantaged students across the nation each year. Two-thirds of **TRiO** students come from families with incomes of less than \$33,075 or \$28,000 (family of four) per year. The majority are the first in their family to attend college and many must overcome tremendous class, social and financial barriers to participate in higher education. The demographic breakdown of TRiO participants is: 35% are African American, 19% are Hispanic, 4% are Native American, and 4% are Asian American, and 1% are listed as "Other," including multiracial students, 37% are Caucasian, 22,000 students have a disability, and 22,000 U.S. Veterans are served by **TRiO** programs. **TRiO** programs are able to serve only about 5% of eligible students in the nation.

For more information about TRiO programs see the following website:

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html

McNair National Website: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html>

* The total funding allocation for the TRiO Programs in FY 2012 was \$838,629,436. The total number of projects was 2,815, and the total number of participants served was 789,676 (does not include TRiO Training participants). <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>



Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.

Ronald Erwin McNair was born October 21, 1950 in Lake City, South Carolina. In 1971 he attended North Carolina A&T State University and graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.S. degree in physics. In 1976 he attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated with a Ph.D. in laser physics.

His dissertation title was:

Energy Absorption and Vibrational Heating in Molecules Following Intense Laser Excitation.

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 January 1978 and was a mission specialist aboard the January 1986 flight of the Space Shuttle *US Challenger*.

In addition to the above academic achievements, McNair received three honorary doctoral degrees: an honorary Doctorate of Law from North Carolina A&T State University in 1978, an honorary Doctorate of Science from Morris College in 1980, and an honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of South Carolina in 1984. He received many fellowships and commendations, including:

- Presidential Scholar, 1967-1971
- Ford Foundation Fellow, 1971-1974
- National Fellowship Fund Fellow, 1974-1975
- Omega Psi Phi Scholar of the Year, 1975
- NATO Fellow, 1976
- Distinguished National Scientist - National Society of Black Professional Engineers, 1979
- Friend of Freedom Award, 1981

McNair also held a fifth degree black belt in karate and was an accomplished jazz saxophonist. He was married and had a son and a daughter.

After his death in the *US Challenger* Space Shuttle accident in January 1986, members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program to encourage income eligible and first generation college students, and students from groups historically underrepresented in graduate school to expand their educational opportunities and to pursue graduate studies.

This program is dedicated to the high standards of achievement inspired by Dr. McNair's life.