

# McNair Scholars Program



Eastern Kentucky University

## NEWSLETTER



### The 2005-2006 McNair Scholars

The Eastern Kentucky University McNair Scholars Program welcomes its current sophomore, junior and senior scholars into the program. The McNair Scholars Program is currently in its third year at Eastern Kentucky University.

McNair is a federally-funded U.S. Department of Education initiative that advances doctoral preparation for students who are first-generation university learners from low-income backgrounds and / or are African-American, Hispanic, Native American or Native Alaskan. The students selected to participate in this program are goal-driven, high-achievement oriented individuals with aspirations for careers in which the Ph.D. is requisite.

The primary focus of the McNair Scholars Program is to provide academic experiences for participants that will help ensure their successful baccalaureate degree attainment. In addition, their participation in scholarly activities, mentoring and research activities will help prepare them to experience success in a select graduate program.

Fall 2005  
Volume 1, Issue 2

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Eastern Kentucky University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and educational institution.

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Amy Rose

Not Pictured:  
Janice Clayton  
DaJaune Harris

## ABSTRACT

As part of the McNair Scholars Program, scholars participate in paid summer internships where they conduct undergraduate research with a mentor. Following are abstracts for the research conducted by six scholars that participated in our first ever ten-week research internship collaboration with the McNair Scholars Program at Indiana University-Bloomington during the 2005 summer term.

### Alisha Williams



For many years, researchers have sought to unravel the relationship between perception of risk, victimization, and fear of criminal victimization among adolescents at school. However, few studies have examined the antecedents of fear of crime at school. Using data from approximately 4,100 middle and high school students from 53 public schools in Kentucky, this study attempts to unravel the relationship between these factors. This study uses multivariate linear regression to examine the relationship between the fear of crime at school and other contextual factors.

### Jacqueline Terrell



According to the 2000 census, there were 214,536 Latinos living in Indiana. In Bloomington alone, there were 1,722 (U.S. Census Bureau). This research will identify the perceived barriers that prohibit Latino women of the city of Bloomington from receiving early prenatal care. The expected variables that negatively impact access include language, lack of transportation, lack of insurance, lack of knowledge of the available services, and citizenship. This analysis will alert the health care arena of the barriers and changes that facilitate timely and effective access to prenatal care.

### Susan "Niki" Harvey



This study examines the perceptions and attitudes of students at Indiana University-Bloomington about racism on campus using a survey questionnaire. The results from this study indicate that students do perceive racism to be a problem on campus. In addition, there is a difference in the perception of racism based on race (black and white) and gender. Black students reported more negative experiences with regards to racism than did their white counterparts. The findings of this study support other studies conducted on racism that conclude that racism is a perceived problem on campus by students.

### Amy Rose



Due to the fact that research has previously determined that clothing is value laden in that it communicates immediately beliefs, characteristics, and traits about its wearer, this study seeks to better understand how the meaning of clothing is created, assigned and managed. The semiotic tradition of media theory will be used in evaluating the effect of one character in a simulated environment on fashion, styles, and trends on young American women. Rachel Green's character on the popular sitcom, Friends, will be considered. Further, this study seeks to emphasize the ability and power television programming exudes in affecting culture and society.

### Sarah Turley



The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 led to sweeping changes in the administration of welfare services. Section 104 of PRWORA, the Charitable Choice provision, encourages public funding of faith-based social services. Despite the increased emphasis in this area however, little research exists on faith-based organizations and faith communities as providers of social services. This study addresses this inadequacy by exploring the integration of faith into social services provided by faith-based agencies and faith communities in Bloomington, Indiana.

### Carlene Webb



This project facilitates a needs assessment of the Latino community in Monroe County, IN, particularly in relation to the Latino Emergency Room (ER) experience in Bloomington Hospital. The resulting information will become part of a broader health needs assessment conducted by a local Minority Health Task Force. The purpose of this needs assessment is to provide information for developing culturally appropriate, accessible emergency care for Latino residents through the Bloomington Hospital Emergency Department and improved integration of this community into both primary and acute care services.

## The IUB Experience

The summer undergraduate research experience at Indiana-University-Bloomington (IUB) was the first research collaboration between the EKU and IUB McNair programs. As a result, we wanted to know what our scholars thought of their experience. Following are two testimonies from scholars that participated in summer research internships at IUB.

The summer research internship at Indiana University-Bloomington was an amazing learning experience. I was anxious in the beginning and really doubted my abilities to complete a research project in such a short time (ten weeks). However, my fears were eliminated as soon as I met my faculty mentor. She guided me through the research experience and remained patient as I learned about the frustrations of qualitative research. I gained knowledge about research within the field of social work and an appreciation for those who have attained a Ph.D. This experience has encouraged my plans for continuing my education and participating in future research endeavors.

--Sarah Turley

The research experience I gained at Indiana University this summer was truly wonderful. I was privileged to work with a prominent person in my field and learn first hand how to conduct effective research. My mentor, Dr. Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, guided me through the entire process and offered academic and emotional support. The staff of the McNair Program at Indiana University was equally helpful. Cathi, Jenny, and Debi remained available throughout the entire summer to offer any assistance needed. Resources abounded on the campus as well. The library network available to me was amazing. Books, magazines, articles, and journals were at my fingertips to aid in conducting my research, which was largely a textual analysis. Having attended the undergraduate research experience, I am thoroughly impressed by Indiana University, its faculty and staff, and the city of Bloomington. I feel blessed to have had this experience.

--Amy Rose

### 2005 Graduates



Over the past year, the McNair Scholars Program had seven scholars graduate. (From left to right) Kishonna Gray, Robin Embry, Jon Walker, Chad Adkins, and Jacqueline Terrell. (not pictured) Maria Hansford and Amanda Brown

## Presentation Highlights



(Left) Niki Harvey gives a poster presentation titled “The Perception of Racism at Indiana University-Bloomington” at the Indiana State University McNair Conference.



(Right) Jacqueline Terrell gives a poster presentation titled “Barriers to Timely and Effective Prenatal Care For Latino Females in the Bloomington, Indiana Area” at the Indiana State University McNair Conference.



(Left) Majik Link gives a poster presentation titled “Study Circles: Strengthening Adult Education and Society” at the University of Maryland McNair Conference.

(Right) Maria Hansford presents at the University of Maryland McNair Conference. Her topic was titled “Music and Fact: Revolutionary Language in the Work of Muriel Rukeyser”.



## Snapshots Throughout the Year



(Left) The scholars gather for a group picture for our annual Meet and Greet. Designed as an event to give the scholars an update on what the academic year will hold, it is also used as a platform for the returning scholars to meet the new McNair scholars.

(Right) McNair scholars enjoy food and conversation at our End of Term Celebration. This bi-annual event gives the scholars a chance to unwind before finals begin.



(Left) Ashley Walters, Alisha Williams, Sheri Rogers, and Majik Link enjoying sight-seeing at the Baltimore Harbor while attending the McNair Scholars Conference at the University of Maryland during the Spring 2005 semester.





## The President's Comments

For nearly a century now, Eastern Kentucky University has proudly staked her claim as a "School of Opportunity," a place where dreams do, indeed, come true.

To this day, the majority of our students are first-generation students. They find on our campus a welcoming and affirming atmosphere that nurtures their intellectual and personal growth. So it's only fitting that Eastern became one of the first institutions in the Commonwealth to participate in the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, which helps low-income and first-generation students and others from groups underrepresented in graduate studies to pursue a doctoral degree.

It has been demonstrated repeatedly throughout EKU's history that, given the opportunity, our students can successfully compete against the best students nationwide. I am supremely confident this new program will open even more doors for a new generation of deserving, highly-motivated students.

As our total enrollment at EKU reaches near-record numbers, we must never lose sight of our commitment to the success of each and every one of our students. The McNair Scholars Program is an outstanding example of that commitment. An old Buddhist proverb states, "When the student is ready, the master appears." As they participate in a variety of activities designed to acclimate them to the culture of academic research, McNair Scholars are gaining the tools they need to successfully pursue a doctoral degree.

McNair Scholars enjoy the opportunity to learn from some of our leading faculty, dedicated professors who are enthusiastic about the opportunity to groom students, through their superb teaching and thoughtful mentoring, for doctoral-level work.

The McNair Scholars Program has already proven to be successful in preparing some of our students for their next educational challenge. And I know that many, many more success stories are waiting to be written.

Joanne K. Glasser  
President  
Eastern Kentucky University

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## Greetings from the Director

Welcome to the McNair Scholars Program at Eastern Kentucky University!

If you are hearing about McNair at EKU for the first time, please know that McNair is a U.S. Department of Education project that prepares eligible undergraduate scholars for graduate school achievement. Currently, there are over 175 McNair projects across the nation. Most of these are at universities awarding the Ph.D., the degree toward which all McNair scholars strive.

On October 1, 2003 EKU and Murray State University became the first Kentucky institutions to join distinguished McNair projects at larger institutions. McNair at EKU is proud to collaborate with EKU and McNair colleagues in offering extensive graduate school preparation opportunities to top Kentucky scholars!

For more information about McNair at EKU – including our vision, mission, and values statements; the services we provide; eligibility requirements; and a brief biography about Ronald E. McNair – please visit our website at [www.mcnair.eku.edu](http://www.mcnair.eku.edu). In addition, you may visit the USDOE McNair website at [www.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html).

Rich Richmond

The McNair Scholars Program at Eastern Kentucky University is a U.S. Department of Education Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Project operating on a four-year grant award totaling \$880,000. The current grant cycle runs from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2007. The grant award number is P217A030090.