PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Who is Ronald E. McNair?

Dr. Ronald Erwin McNair, a physicist and astronaut, was undoubtedly one of the greatest scholars of our time. He was a recognized expert in laser physics and an astronaut for NASA.

McNair graduated magna cum laude from North Carolina AT&T State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in physics. He went on to earn a doctorate degree in laser physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was 26 years old.

In 1978, he was selected for the space shuttle program and was a mission specialist aboard the 1984 flight of the shuttle Challenger. In January 1986, McNair and the other members of the crew were killed in the Challenger explosion.

McNair was an African American whose life exemplified dedication, academic excellence and vision. During his life, McNair used his resources to overcome obstacles and to improve his life, as well as those in his community. After his death, the members of Congress funded the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program to provide disadvantaged, high-achieving college students with effective preparation for doctoral study.

What is the McNair Scholars Program?

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is a federal award granted to institutions of higher education for projects designed to provide disadvantaged college students with effective preparation for doctoral study.

At Sacramento State, the McNair Scholars Program offers the following benefits:

- Academic plan development for preparation for doctoral studies
- Close professional relationship with a faculty mentor
- Tutoring
- Paper published in the CSUS McNair Journal
- Assistance to prepare for admission to graduate programs
- Fee waivers from participating institutions
- Strengthening academic skills
- Faculty mentored research culminating in publishable research paper
- Weekly research skills seminar

Where is the CSUS McNair Scholars Program located?

The CSUS McNair Scholars Program is located in the Riverfront Building #203. The program is governed by the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education, and all information related to the program is reported to the U.S. Department of Education and the campus administration.