Federal grant boosts Sac State’s McNair Scholars Program

Sacramento State’s McNair Scholars Program will receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Education totaling $219,996 annually for five years, beginning Oct. 1.

The grant will fund the University’s program that helps low-income and first-generation or underrepresented juniors and seniors in their academic preparation for graduate studies leading to a doctoral degree.

“The McNair Scholars Program at Sacramento State reflects our University’s deeply held value of providing opportunities for the students of California,” says Sacramento State President Alexander Gonzalez.

“I appreciate the work of Congresswoman Doris Matsui and our other federal partners as we work to preserve access, quality and affordability. This grant will further the McNair legacy at Sacramento State and allow students to pursue their loftiest ambitions in higher education.”

Congresswoman Doris Matsui says, “I am pleased that this funding will allow Sacramento State the resources to continue to provide support for disadvantaged students who seek higher degrees. We must give our students the foundation to compete and succeed in a global marketplace.”

Participants in the McNair Scholars Program, named for Challenger astronaut Ronald McNair, have demonstrated strong academic potential and a desire to seek an advanced degree. The program offers support in the following areas:

- Academic counseling, tutoring and GRE test preparation
- Opportunities to participate in scholarly activities such as research, internships, seminars and the publication of research papers
Faculty mentors to guide each participant throughout his or her academic career at Sacramento State

Assistance in coordinating with Financial Aid to ensure adequate financial support and debt management training

Provisional graduate school admission assistance and financial planning to ensure participants’ enrollment in a graduate or doctoral program

“This generous grant will allow the McNair Scholars Program to continue its mission to prepare first-generation and underrepresented students in pursuing their dream of studying at the doctoral level,” says Chevelle Newsome, acting dean of Sacramento State’s Graduate Studies. “We appreciate the strong federal and institutional support for this outstanding program.”

For more information, visit the McNair Scholars website at http://www.csus.edu/mcnair/. For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156.

Sacramento State is making a difference in California’s Capital Region and beyond. We offer a life-changing opportunity for our 28,000 students, preparing them to be leaders in their professions and communities. Our professors are known for their dedication to great teaching. And our location in the capital of the nation’s most populous state allows students to pursue unique internships and research.

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