



SACRAMENTO STATE

McNair Scholars Program

FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER



Dr. Ronald McNair

River Front Center
Room 203

mcnair@csus.edu

Instagram
[@mcnairsacstate](https://www.instagram.com/mcnairsacstate)

csus.edu/mcnair



Program Overview

Ronald McNair is the second African-American to fly in space and was nationally recognized for his work in the field of Laser Physics. Dr. McNair and his fellow astronauts perished in the 1986 space shuttle Challenger explosion on its way into outer space. The US Congress established the McNair Scholars Program in his name.

The TRIO McNair Scholars Program prepares first-generation undergraduate students for admission and studies at the graduate level. McNair provides access to the tools and resources necessary to become a competitive graduate applicant.

McNair requires a one-year commitment. The program collaborates with faculty members to provide every scholar with the experience of conducting mentored research and completing an article for academic publication.

Message from the Director - Dr. Jasmine Wade

This summer, our McNair Scholars represented Sacramento State with distinction at the SAEOPP McNair/SSS Scholars Research Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, and the National McNair Research Conference at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Our Scholars shared their research with audiences from across the country, earned prizes for their work, and demonstrated the intellectual curiosity, professionalism, and excellence that define the Sacramento State McNair Scholars Program. We could not be prouder of them.

As we begin a new academic year, we are delighted to welcome our newest cohort of McNair Scholars. This remarkable group includes students from six of Sacramento State's seven colleges, bringing an exciting range of disciplines, research interests, and perspectives to our program. We look forward to supporting them as they develop their research projects, build relationships with faculty mentors, and prepare for graduate study.

We are also excited that four members of our 2025-2026 cohort remain enrolled at Sacramento State and will participate in a new pilot program: the Graduate School Application Lab. Through workshops, individualized guidance, and opportunities to receive feedback on their application materials, the Lab will help Scholars navigate the "nitty-gritty" of applying to graduate school and submit their strongest possible applications.

This fall also marks a new chapter for our program's journal. The McNair Scholars Journal has been renamed The Capital Scholar: Sacramento State McNair Scholars Journal. This rebranding gives the journal a distinctive and distinguished identity, sets it apart from other McNair publications, and provides our Scholars with a publication credit they can proudly feature on their CVs. The newest issue of The Capital Scholar will be released later this semester.

None of this work would be possible without the faculty mentors, campus and community partners, alumni, friends, and Scholars who continue to support the McNair program. Thank you for investing your time, expertise, encouragement, and care in our students. We are grateful to have you as part of the McNair community, and we look forward to another year of discovery, growth, and achievement.

APRIL Research Symposium



The McNair Research Symposium was held on April 20, 2026 in the University Union.

Thank you to everyone who came to watch and support!



JUNE SAEOPP McNair/SSS Research Conference

Our 25-26 cohort traveled and presented at the SAEOPP conference in Atlanta, Georgia on June 25-28, 2026.

Congratulations to Julia Ly, Terry Nguyen, Citlali Galvan and Jacob Betgeorge for placing 1st and 3rd places in their respective disciplines!



AUG Baylor University McNair Research Conference

Our 25-26 cohort also traveled to the Baylor University conference in Waco, Texas on August 6-7, 2026.



MEET THE 2026-2027 COHORT

Sarah Arnold

Faculty Mentor: Katerina Lagos

Correy Bratton

Faculty Mentor: Mark Brown

Patricia Cortes

Jonathon Crowell

Faculty Mentor: PJ Carlino

Elizah Hernandez

Faculty Mentor: Lani Gleason

Carter Mathos

Jennifer Pickel

Faculty Mentor: Sharon Flicker

Breanna Reyes

Faculty Mentor: Erika Salinas

Tyesha Riley

Faculty Mentor: Araceli Feliz

Valentino Rodriguez

Faculty Mentor: Elvia Ramirez

Bahar Sefmo

Faculty Mentor: Greg Kim-Ju

Fares Shirali

Faculty Mentor: Zahra Najafi

Leslie Zamarripa

Faculty Mentor: Rebecca Kluchin

Graduate Student Mentors:

Evelin Arredulfo

Audrey Taylor

