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Winthrop's McNair Scholars Program Receives Third Round of Funding to Prepare Students for Ph.D. Programs

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Winthrop's McNair Scholars Program Receives Third Round of Funding to Prepare Students for Ph.D. Programs

Quick Facts

- Winthrop's Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program received its third round of federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education.
- This latest TRiO grant renewal contained a funding increase of nearly \$6,000, bringing the program's total award to \$232,265 each year for five years.
- The Winthrop McNair Scholars program prepares 30 first generation, low-income, and underrepresented undergraduates to be successful in Ph.D. programs.



Cheryl Fortner-Wood

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – Winthrop University's **Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program** received its third round of federal funding from the **U.S. Department of Education**.

This latest TRiO grant renewal contained a **funding increase of nearly \$6,000**, bringing the program's total award to \$232,265 each year for five years. Winthrop contributes \$85,000 in cash and in-kind matches.

The McNair Scholars program is named for **South Carolina native Ronald E. McNair** who perished three decades ago in the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, but his name and legacy in education continues through the program.

The Winthrop McNair Scholars program, which **began in 2009**, prepares **30 first generation, low-income, and underrepresented undergraduates** to be successful in Ph.D. programs by providing research and other opportunities as well as financial support throughout the graduate admissions process. Winthrop's program includes, but is not limited to, a paid summer research experience, faculty mentoring, workshops, GRE and graduate school application preparation, and travel to present research and explore graduate programs.

"Winthrop is uniquely poised to provide the high-quality undergraduate research experiences and other McNair services," said McNair Scholars Director **Cheryl Fortner-Wood**. "McNair is a natural extension of the great work Winthrop's talented faculty, supportive administration, and committed staff are already doing to grow cohorts of future professors, scientists and leaders. We're **grateful to have the opportunity to continue these experiences for our students** with this latest grant renewal."

The McNair Scholars program has **served more than 110 students since its inception**. The university offers its McNair services to students at other South Carolina colleges and universities because it is **one of only two universities in the state that houses the McNair program**. One College of Charleston student is currently participating in Winthrop's McNair Scholars program.

Students have nothing but praise for the McNair Scholars program. One student recently said: "I've

seen the good McNair can do for their scholars. **McNair has changed my entire life's path**, and has given me opportunities I would not have had without a program like this. McNair allowed me to see firsthand that I have potential; something that so many others overlooked. I can say with 100% confidence that had it not been for the McNair program, I would most certainly not be going to [an Ivy League School] for a master's program. McNair made that possible for me. The program provided me with experiences that you can't put a price tag on."

For more information on the McNair Scholars program, please contact **Fortner-Wood** at 803/323-2641 or email fortnerc@winthrop.edu.

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