



# Bai Vue, 2010 McNair Scholar

**Bachelor of Science, Human Resource Development-UMN  
Master of Education, Human Resource Development-UMN**



“The McNair Scholars Program was instrumental in my graduate program completion. Through this program, I have developed research experiences, lasting relationships with faculty and graduate students, and a strong self-advocacy. I am a role model for my community and now support others to pursue dignify careers.”

**Current Occupation**

**McNair Scholars Advisor & Career Counselor  
College of Education and Human Development  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities**

**TRIO**  
RONALD E. MCNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Courtney Bell, 2010 McNair Scholar

**Bachelor of Art, Sociology of Law, Criminology, and Deviance-UMN  
Master of Education, Social Studies Education-UMN**



“The McNair Scholars Program helped to prepare me academically, emotionally, mentally, and holistically for graduate study. During my time as a McNair Scholar I was extremely intimidated by even the thought of applying for a doctoral program after undergrad. I am now entering into the third year of my doctoral studies at the U of M. I have my McNair and TRIO family to thank for stretching my aspirations and my scholastic imagination.”

**Current Occupation**

**Ph.D. Candidate, Education Policy and Leadership  
College of Education and Human Development  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities**

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POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Tierra Howard, 2012 McNair Scholar

**Bachelor of Science, Youth Studies-UMN  
M.Ed, Elementary Education-UMSL  
MSE, K-12 Administration-KU**



“McNair gave me a foot in the door to compete with my peers to succeed in my Masters programs. It was with the preparation that I received from McNair that I had the stamina to finish two Masters before the age of 30. I honestly believe that without the experiences and development from McNair, I not have obtained my Master degrees.”

**Current Occupation**

**4th Grade Math Teacher  
University Academy**

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POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Nicholas Persa, 2014 McNair Scholar

Bachelor of Science, Psychology-UMN



“The McNair Scholars Program believed in me and helped me establish connections and experiences giving me an advantage to pursue a doctorate. The staff were there for my advanced studies and provided emotional support. They became family during the hard journey. That changed the game.”

**Current Occupation**

**Ph.D. Candidate, Informatics  
University of California, Irvine**

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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Octavia Cheatom, 2012 McNair Scholar

Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology-UMN  
Master of Public Health-UMN



“The McNair Scholars Program was instrumental in helping solidify the choice to pursue a post baccalaureate program. McNair informed me of the logistics of the graduate school application process, gave me the confidence to pursue my program of choice, and offered a support system that cannot be matched.”

**Current Occupation**

**Associate Director of Clinical Quality University  
UnitedHealth Group**

**TRIO**  
RONALD E. MCNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Redeat Tibebu, 2014 McNair Scholar

Bachelor of Science, Horticulture-UMN



“The McNair Scholars Program has been crucial in empowering me to take on a Ph.D. program in Plant Biology at the University of Minnesota. The friendships and networks I built during my time as a McNair scholar still follow me to this day and are a big part of my support system! I am grateful for McNair’s sustained support and guidance in my endeavor. I am always aspiring to pay it forward within my community.”

**Current Occupation**

**Ph.D. Candidate, Plant Molecular Biology  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities**

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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Zack Crowley, 2017 McNair Scholar

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology-UMN



“The McNair program at the University of Minnesota is the reason that I will be in a Ph.D. program this fall. This program gave me the opportunity to experience research, create lasting relationships with faculty, and provided me community while in school. The McNair program showed me that I belong in higher education and research.”

**Current Occupation**

**Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities**

**TRIO**  
RONALD E. MCNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Catherine Richards, 2017 McNair Scholar

Bachelor of Science, Psychology-UMN



“The McNair Scholars Program provided me an entire summer to devote to my academic and professional growth with resources, a peers community, and mentors to help me reach my full potential. I did not have to worry about expenses while conducting research. I could fully devote myself to my work. My cohort and the McNair Team challenged and supported me to be my best. Their guidance and friendship extended through the especially volatile time of applying and matriculating to graduate school.”

**Current Occupation**

**Ph.D. Candidate, Cognitive Psychology  
University of Delaware**

**TRIO**  
RONALD E. MCNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM





# Tyra Reed, 2017 McNair Scholar

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology-UMN



“The McNair Scholars Program has pushed me to think critically about the societal issues and my role in being a part of the solution. I found the staff to be extremely supportive. McNair was a distinguished and uplifting experience and helped my personal and academic development.”

**Current Occupation**

**Urban Scholar**

**Civil Rights Department, Office of Police Conduct Review  
City of Minneapolis**

**TRIO**  
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POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Laura d'Almeida, 2017 McNair Scholar

Bachelor of Arts, Global Studies-UMN



“The McNair Scholars Program not only provided the opportunity to conduct research and develop a relationship with a faculty, it also helped me reach for all the opportunities available post-graduation. From the seminars to the one-on-one advising, McNair offered me the tools to grow as a scholar. The connections I made will follow me throughout life and for that, I am grateful. Thank you!”

**Current Occupation**

**M.A. Education Policy, Organization and Leadership  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**

**TRIO**  
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POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Tanya Bui, 2011 McNair Scholar

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology-Carlton College



“The McNair Scholars Program equipped me with the mindset and confidence to optimize my skill set as I completed college and started my first job. I learned how to conduct diligent research, to ask the right questions, to be resourceful when approaching an ambiguous situations, and to effectively communicate information. I am currently working in my dream job. I know that being a McNair Scholar was impactful in setting me up for success.”

**Current Occupation**

**Strategies and Systems Consultant  
Slalom Consulting**

**TRIO**  
RONALD E. MCNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Jayson Watkins, 2016 McNair Scholar

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology-UMN



“The McNair Scholars Program afforded me the opportunity to learn, develop, and grow as a student interested in furthering my education beyond undergrad. I did not know how I was going to get to the next step, luckily McNair was the bridge I needed, providing me with valuable resources I needed for graduate school. They gave me the support I needed at a very difficult and challenging time in my life. I am forever grateful for the opportunities I have had thus far, but the McNair program has been the most impactful.”

**Current Occupation**

**M.A. Sport and Health Counseling  
Adler University**

**TRIO**  
RONALD E. MCNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Jason Jones, 2014 McNair Scholar

Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry-UMN



“The McNair Scholars Program provided me with a toolkit that helped me apply to graduate school. The McNair Team was encouraging and supportive and are still an instrumental part of my community as I complete my STEM doctorate.”

**Current Occupation**

**Ph.D. Candidate, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics  
University of Minnesota**

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## Bruce and Sharyn Schelske, TRIO Emeriti



“Seeing the enthusiasm and academic prowess of the next generation of students at the McNair Scholars Summer Research Symposium is truly gratifying for educators who have spent their careers working to ensure educational equity.”

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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM