



Mikaila Leyva

McNair Scholar Graduate

Before learning about the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, I was a good student, but I knew nothing about graduate school, and I never thought I would be in a position to go. Being a first generation college student and coming from a low-income household, graduate school seemed out of reach from me. However, the McNair program changed that.

After being accepted into the program, I was given the materials and lessons needed to further my academic career by people who understood where I came from and what obstacles I faced. If you are the first one in your family to enter higher education there is a noticeable gap of knowledge in how to navigate the world of academia.

The McNair program gave me the tools and skills I needed to become competitive when applying to graduate school and how to do it. By far the best thing they gave me was belief in myself through their constant support and encouragement. I am now attending my first semester at The University of Notre Dame, and the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program made it possible.

 www.ewu.edu/mcnair



Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Program

Through a grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to prepare eligible participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. Participants are from disadvantaged backgrounds and have demonstrated strong academic potential. Institutions work closely with participants as they complete their undergraduate requirements. Institutions encourage participants to enroll in graduate programs and then track their progress through to the successful completion of advanced degrees. The goal is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society.

All McNair projects must provide the following activities: opportunities for research or other scholarly activities; summer internships; seminars and other educational activities designed to prepare students for doctoral study; tutoring; academic counseling; and activities designed to assist students participating in the project in securing admission to and financial assistance for enrollment in graduate programs. McNair projects may also provide the following additional activities: education or counseling services designed to improve financial and economic literacy of students; mentoring programs involving faculty members at institutions of higher education or students, or any combination of such persons; and exposure to cultural events and academic programs not usually available to disadvantaged students.

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