Ronald E. McNair was born on Oct. 12, 1950, in Lake City, S.C. He received his bachelor’s degree magna cum laude in physics from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1971. Five years later, he earned a Ph.D. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

McNair was nationally recognized for his work in the field of laser physics and received numerous honorary degrees, fellowships and commendations.

In 1978, McNair was selected for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s space program, becoming the second African-American to fly in space. His life and that of six fellow astronauts ended tragically on Jan. 28, 1986, when the Challenger space shuttle exploded.

The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program is dedicated to preserving his legacy of scholarship and accomplishments.

"The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program has prepared me in many ways, not just in terms of graduate school and higher education, but also with lifelong skills such as motivation, commitment, speaking skills and academic confidence. As a McNair Scholar, I am looked upon as a leader and a role model rather than blending into the background. I am very proud to be a part of the McNair family here at Kent State University."

-Katara West

For More Information

Contact the McNair Scholars Program for more information on the program, application deadlines or to request an application packet.

McNair Scholars Program
Kent State University
Graduate Studies
220 Cartwright Hall
650 Hilltop Drive
Kent, OH 44242-0001

Phone: 330-672-2264
Fax: 330-672-2658

The Kent State University Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education Federal TRIO Programs.

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**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The McNair Scholars Program aims to successfully prepare scholars for entrance into graduate school. The ultimate goal of the program is for recipients to achieve a Ph.D. within 10 years of earning their undergraduate degree.

Founded in memory of Dr. Ronald E. McNair, an accomplished physicist and astronaut who died in the 1986 space shuttle Challenger explosion, the McNair Scholars Program is a grant program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. It is an income-based award that supports first-generation undergraduate students for doctoral study.

The McNair Scholars program is one of the Federal TRIO Programs consisting of outreach and student services designed to identify and provide services for program participants.

The main components of the program include conducting original research under the guidance of a faculty mentor and receiving training in writing, communication and graduate school preparation.

Scholars receive financial support and travel opportunities that include presenting their research at conferences, visiting graduate schools and attending cultural activities.

**BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The McNair Scholars Program provides a supportive, yet challenging environment that is conducive to learning and professional development. Program participants benefit from the following:

- Regularly scheduled seminars on topics related to graduate school preparation;
- A mentoring opportunity with a faculty member, who will provide guidance, advice and an introduction to the academic profession;
- Development of leadership skills;
- Extensive preparations for graduate education;
- Personal and individualized academic support;
- Intensive graduate record examination (GRE) preparation;
- Access to graduate school application fee waivers;
- Academic skills building; and
- Graduate preparation workshops.

"Without the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program I would not have had the opportunity to visit or network with potential graduate schools. I would not have received the preparation for the GRE, graduate school application requirements or graduate school expectations. Nor would I be a student in the Honors College expanding on the nutrition education curriculum I developed during the Summer Research Institute. To me, the McNair Scholars Program means support, dedication and achievement. Having the title of ‘McNair Scholar’ makes me want to be that much better.”

- Jennifer Bryant

**SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

McNair Scholars Program participants also have the opportunity to become a part of Kent State University’s Summer Research Institute and earn Honors College credits.

Participation includes:

- A research stipend of up to $2,800;
- Presentation of research at local and/or regional conferences with all expenses paid;
- Graduate school visits and tours; and
- Residence in the Honors College.

**PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

To become a McNair Scholars Program participant, students must:

- Have at least a 3.0 grade point average;
- Have completed their sophomore year;
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident; and
- Be a first-generation college student who meets income guidelines, OR from an ethnic group underrepresented in doctoral programs (African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American/Alaskan or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander).

Please visit [http://www.kent.edu/academics/graduates/gradstudent/mcnair](http://www.kent.edu/academics/graduates/gradstudent/mcnair) or call 330-672-2264 for more information.