



2023 McNair Spring Gathering

INSPIRING THE FUTURE AND CHANGING LIVES



Thursday May 25th, 2023 • 4:30 pm
The Spokane Club



EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
start something **big**

Event Program

WELCOME, PROGRAM UPDATES 5:00 PM

Dr. Rebecca Clark, McNair Director

KEYNOTE SPEAKER 5:10 PM

Dr. Oscar Harris, Chief Family and Community Engagement Officer, SPS

WELCOMING NEW SCHOLARS 5:20 PM

Cori Jaeger, McNair Academic Advisor

SCHOLAR REMARKS 5:25 PM

Bakima Ssebanakitta, McNair Scholar

RECOGNITION OF MCNAIR MENTORS 5:30 PM

Dr. Rebecca Clark, McNair Director

SCHOLAR REMARKS 5:35 PM

Arcelia Madrigal, McNair Scholar

RECOGNITION OF MCNAIR CONTINUING SCHOLARS 5:40 PM

Cori Jaeger, McNair Academic Advisor

RECOGNITION OF MCNAIR GRADUATING SCHOLARS 5:45 PM

Cori Jaeger, McNair Academic Advisor

SCHOLAR REMARKS 5:50 PM

Serena Camacho, McNair Scholar

CLOSING COMMENTS 5:55 PM

Dr. Rebecca Clark, McNair Director

MCNAIR NETWORKING 6:00 PM

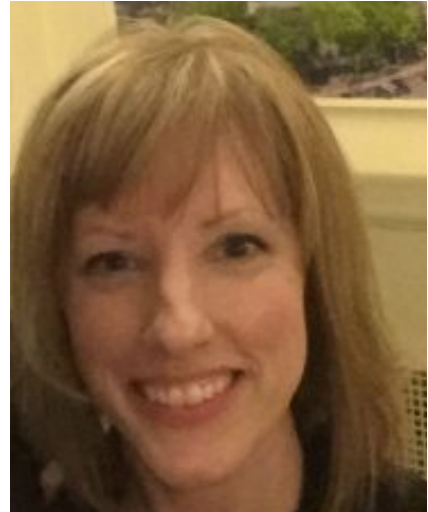
Thank you for joining us!



Letter from the Director

Thank you for joining us in celebrating our 26th annual McNair Spring Gathering!

Originally from Spokane, I returned from 20 years in Seattle to home in Eastern Washington in December 2022. I began at McNair this fall during finals week and winter break. I used that quiet time on campus to immerse myself in the details of McNair and its tradition on EWU's campus. Since the McNair program began at EWU in 1995, we have served close to 400 first-generation, low-income, and/or underrepresented students to receive program support to prepare them for success at the graduate level. As a result, over 50 EWU McNair scholars have earned PhDs; more than 140 have earned master's degrees, and dozens are currently working hard in graduate school.



Dr. Rebecca Clark, Director

When the new, continuing, and graduating scholars arrived on campus in January, the office exploded with energy, enthusiasm, creativity, and perseverance. I applaud ALL of you for the work you completed and the work you continue to pursue. Believe me when I say that all the McNair Scholars are genuinely inspiring.

Part of the success of McNair is the dedication of the staff, who believes in the potential and success of every student. Cori Jaeger, our intrepid Academic Advisor, tirelessly works for our scholars and will stop at no end for each student's success. Plus, our GSA's Liina Koivula and Marcus Shoffner offer experience, wisdom, and compassion that is vital to each scholar.

Thank you for your presence and support.

Rebecca Clark, Director

Our Mission

Eastern's TRIO Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program prepares low-income, first-generation, and/or racially underrepresented undergraduates for success in doctoral programs. McNair provides opportunities for scholarly activities and community engagement that empower participants to become agents of positive change in a culturally diverse world.

Recent McNair Alumni Degrees

Halim Acosta

MS Computer Sciences

North Carolina State University, 2023

Laurisa Ankley

PhD Microbiology & Molecular Genetics

Michigan State University, 2023

Miriam Carlson

Eds School Psychology

Gonzaga University, 2023

David Nguyen

MS Statistics

University of Nebraska Lincoln, 2022

Amy Nuñez

PhD Educational Policy Studies

Indiana University Bloomington, 2023

Rachel Silverthorn

MS Criminal Justice

Florida International University, 2022



2022 New McNair Scholars

Mary Belton, Education & Literature

Mentored by Dr. Chris Valeo

Tiago Correia, Mathematics

Mentored by Dr. Yves Nievergelt

Terreca DeFehr, I/O Psychology

Mentored by Dr. Jillene Seiver

Sylvia Kennerly, Chemistry

Mentored by Dr. Jason Ashley

Kelly Parke, Anthropology & Disability Studies

Mentored by Dr. Ryan Parrey

Mai Peregrina, Psychology

Mentored by Dr. Kayleen Islam-Zwart

Brendan Roof, Literature

Mentored by Dr. Paul Lindholt

Makenna Tabino, Biology

Mentored by Dr. Rebecca Brown

Alejandro Torres-Gonzalez, Biology

Mentored by Dr. Justin Bastow

Emerging Scholars

Emerging Scholars are students with high aptitude for graduate study and are working with McNair to become strong candidates for next year's McNair cohort.

Julianna Amante, History & Archives

Sabreen Deng, School Psychology



Continuing Scholars

Our continuing Scholars have been hard at work this year applying to external summer research internships, scholarships, presenting at conferences, leading campus events, working on papers for publication, participating in entrepreneurial competitions, pushing for equity at EWU, and more!

Saul Bautista, History

Mentored by Dr. Joseph Lenti

Irie Browning, Philosophy

Mentored by Dr. Christopher Kirby

Alexander Dodson, Psychology

Mentored by Dr. Amani El-Alayli

Claudio Escalante, Biology

Mentored by Dr. David Daberkow

Marianna Fischer, Mechanical Engineering

Mentored by Dr. Philip Appel

Devin Mumey, Biology

Mentored by Dr. Jessica Allen

Richard Murphy, Philosophy, Political Science, International Affairs

Mentored by Dr. Thomas Hawley

tommyboiZ, Philosophy, Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies

Mentored by Christopher Kirby (2022), Dr. Suzie Henning (2023)



Graduating Scholars



Malek Chreiki, mentored by Dr. Jason Ashley, is graduating with a BS in Biology/Biotech and a BA in Physics. He will continue his studies next year at Montana State University as a PhD student in the Chemical & Biological Engineering Department.

Serena Camacho, mentored by Dr. Camille Frank, is graduating with a BS in Health Psychology. She will pursue a PhD at Washington State University's Cultural Studies and Social Thought in Education Program.



Monica Miranda, mentored by Dr. Shanna Davis, is graduating with a BS in Applied Developmental Psychology. She will attend Pacific University's Master's in Applied Psychological Science Program.



Graduating Scholars



Quentin Young, mentored by Dr. Okera Nsombi, graduated Winter Quarter with a BS in Applied Developmental Psychology. He will attend Seattle Pacific University's Industrial-Organizational Psychology MA program.

Arcelia Madrigal, mentored by Dr. Susan Ruby, is graduating with a BA in Psychology. She will attend the University of Washington Tacoma in the Educational Specialist in School Psychology Program (EdS).



Bakima Ssebanakitta, mentored by Dr. Jillene Seiver, is graduating with a BA in Psychology. She will attend Eastern Washington University's Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program.



Graduating Scholars



Badradin Mohammed, mentored by Dr. Kristin Edquist & PhD candidate Felix Beltran, is graduating with a BA in International Affairs and will attend University of Maryland's Government and Politics PhD Program.

Ian Campuzano, mentored by Dr. Jillene Seiver, will graduate with a BA in Psychology and a BS in Health Psychology. He expects to attend Seattle Pacific University's Psychology Master's Program.



Katie Gower, mentored by Dr. Matthew Anderson, graduated Fall 2022 with a BA in Political Science. She is using her research to engage in community work tackling housing & homelessness in Spokane and will apply to graduate school in Fall 2023.



Graduating Scholars



Haili Poss, mentored by Dr. Jillene Seiver, graduated Winter Quarter with a BA in Psychology and a BA in Criminal Justice. She plans to go straight into working within the field of psychology and apply to graduate school in future years.

Marisa Janke, mentored by Dr. Kevin Decker, is graduating with a BA in Philosophy. She will go on to pursue her musical passions and potentially prepare for a career in Neuroscience or Neuropsychology.



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Our Greatest Gratitude to our McNair Advisory Committee!



Dr. Judd Case
Department of Biology



Dr. Martín
Meráz García
Department of
Chicanx
Studies



Dr. Kayleen
Islam-Zwart
Department of
Psychology



Dr. Stehpen Tsikalas
Department of
Geology



Dr. Miguel Novella
Department of
Modern Languages
& Literatures



Keynote Speaker:

Oscar Harris, Ph.D

Edd Transformational Leadership

EWU McNair Scholar, 2005-6



Born and raised in the Southeastern United States, Dr. Harris relocated to Spokane in 1996 in pursuit of educational and employment opportunities. He was a McNair Scholar in 2005-2006 and earned his BA in History as well as his Master's in Social Work, both at EWU. He then went on to attain an Educational Doctorate Degree in Transformational Leadership from Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. His research interests include community engagement and advocacy to/for marginalized families and improving the service delivery efforts of agencies.

Currently, he is a part of the Spokane Public Schools District (SPS) Leadership Team as the Chief Family and Community Engagement Officer as well as an adjunct faculty for two universities, one being Eastern Washington University.

On top of this, Dr. Harris and his wife, Christina Harris, are the leaders and founders of Ready 2 Serve Ministries. The ministry's vision statement is "Being the Missing Link," and it provides both church and social services. Their Building Bridges program partners with Spokane Public Schools (SPS) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, by doing things such as providing space for community events, assistance with recruitment events targeting diverse populations, and recruiting and training mentors to support SPS students. The program goal is to increase the number of students who regularly attend and graduate from high school as well as re-engage students who may already have been disengaged. Additionally, in partnership with the Community Colleges of Spokane, Ready 2 Serve Ministries works to increase college enrollment through increasing financial aid awareness and application completion.

In 2022, Dr. Harris's book, *Surfacing Your Brilliance* was published. Dr. Harris writes, "I hope this ebook will normalize the struggle of 'becoming' and help you to persevere, for I believe that we all have something to share with those around us." EWU McNair is deeply proud of Dr. Harris and his effort to support and strengthen our communities.



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Faculty Research Mentors

McNair Faculty Research Mentors are an invaluable component of the McNair experience. Mentors provide guidance, boost confidence and belonging, and their letters of recommendation can be the biggest asset to a scholar's graduate applications.

They facilitate the scholar's research from conception to completion and many do so much more in providing insight and support on the path to graduate school success.

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dr. Joseph Lenti, Professor of History,

Mentee: Saul Bautista

Dr. Christopher Kirby, Professor of Philosophy,

Mentees: Irie Browning, tommyboiZ

Dr. Matthew Anderson, Associate Professor of Geography, Anthropology, and Urban & Regional Planning,

Mentee: Katie Gower

Dr. Kevin Decker, Professor of Philosophy,

Mentee: Marisa Janke

Dr. Kristin Edquist, Professor of Political Science & International Affairs,

Mentee: Badradin Mohammed

Felix Beltran, Purdue PhD candidate and EWU McNair Alumni,

Mentee: Badradin Mohammed

Dr. Thomas Hawley, Professor of Political Science,

Mentee: Richard Murphy

Dr. Okera Nsombi, Associate Professor of Africana Studies,

Mentee: Quentin Young

Dr. Chris Valeo, Professor of English,

Mentee: Mary Belton

Dr. Ryan Parrey, Lecturer Social Work, Director of Disability Studies,

Mentee: Kelly Parke

Dr. Paul Lindholdt, Professor of English,

Mentee: Brendan Roof



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS

Dr. Rebecca Brown, Department Chair of Biology, Professor of Biology,

Mentee: Makenna Tabino

Dr. Jessica Allen, Assistant Professor of Biology,

Mentee: Devin Mumey

Dr. Jason Ashley, Associate Professor of Biology,

Mentees: Malek Chreiki, Sylvia Kennerly

Dr. David Daberkow, Associate Professor of Biology,

Mentee: Claudio Escalante

Dr. Philip Appel, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering,

Mentee: Marianna Fischer

Dr. Justin Bastow, Associate Professor of Biology,

Mentee: Alejandro Torres

Dr. Yves Nievergelt, Professor of Mathematics,

Mentee: Tiago Correia

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Dr. Susan Ruby, Professor of Psychology, Social Emotional Learning-
Education Equity Certificate Coordinator,

Mentee: Arcelia Madrigal

Dr. Jillene Seiver, Senior Lecturer of Psychology,

Mentees: Ian Campuzano, Terreca DeFehr, Bakima Ssebanakitta, Haili Poss

Dr. Camille Frank, Assistant Professor of Psychology,

Mentees: Serena Camacho, Sabreen Deng

Dr. Kayleen Islam-Zwart, CPP Associate Dean, Department Chair of
Psychology, Professor of Psychology,

Mentee: Mai Peregrina

Dr. Amani El-Alayli, Professor of Psychology,

Mentee: Alexander Dodson

Dr. Shanna Davis, Associate Professor of Psychology,

Mentee: Monica Miranda



McNair Staff



Rebecca Clark, EdD
Director



Cori Jaeger, M.Ed., MFA
Academic Advisor



Marcus Shoffner, BS
McNair Recruitment GSA



Liina Koivula, BA
McNair GSA

Want to see more amazing work by EWU McNair Scholars?

Check out our website: <https://inside.ewu.edu/mcnair/>

Reach us any time at ewumcnair@ewu.edu