

Introduction

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program prepares low-income, first-generation college students and students from underrepresented groups to pursue graduate study that culminates in PhD degrees. At the encouragement of the McNair Foundation, Congress named the program to honor the legacy of Ronald McNair, an African American NASA astronaut and physicist who died aboard the space shuttle Challenger in 1986. Each year, the UO supports approximately twenty-eight qualifying undergraduate McNair Scholars who show potential and commitment to complete doctoral-level work.

Christabelle Dragoo, PhD | TRIO McNair Director

This year, the TRIO McNair Scholars Program partnered with the Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal (OURJ) for a second year in a row to publish a collection of McNair Scholars' capstone research projects. This publication is the inaugural issue of the *TRIO McNair Scholars Research Journal*. The following works were reviewed and approved by McNair Faculty Mentors and copy-edited by the OURJ Editorial Board.

Jay Taylor and Kyla Schmitt | OURJ Editors-in-Chief

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