

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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I am honored to present the inaugural edition of the TCU McNair Scholars Research Journal, a transformation from its former title, the TCU McNair Anthology. This journal showcases the research endeavors undertaken by McNair Scholars in collaboration with their resilient and devoted faculty mentors throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, marking a departure from hardbound books and signifying the initiation of a significant partnership with the TCU Mary Coats Burnett Library. The library will now serve as the digital repository for this esteemed collection, and we are grateful for this treasured partnership.

At the core of the TCU McNair Program is the mission to elevate the number of undergraduate students from lesser-income backgrounds, those who are first-generation, or hail from underrepresented communities, earning doctoral degrees. As one of the seven student-facing TRIO education programs under the U.S. Department of Education, the TCU McNair Program uniquely focuses on post-baccalaureate success. Through a summer research experience and sustained programming throughout the academic year, McNair Scholars are provided with an invaluable opportunity to refine their research and academic skills. This preparation is pivotal for securing admission to and triumphantly completing graduate studies, reflecting the program's commitment to fostering academic excellence and diversity in higher education.

Over the past two years in my role as Director of the McNair Program, I have been consistently impressed by the extraordinary intellect, drive, and dedication exhibited by the McNair Scholars at TCU. Witnessing juniors and seniors navigate the intricate balance of coursework, employment, organizational leadership, and various other obligations while engaging in intensive graduate preparation training has been truly awe-inspiring. Moreover, their commitment extends to the formidable task of crafting meticulously developed and well-articulated graduate school applications, all while actively contributing to rigorous and indispensable research alongside our dedicated faculty members.

Research stands as a cornerstone in the foundation of any institution aspiring to grow, evolve, and transform. It embodies the spirit of curiosity, intrigue, and innovation, propelling individuals to explore uncharted territories. As proactive problem solvers, researchers systematically turn over intellectual stones, thereby illuminating a clearer path for future generations. Within the pages of this journal, the McNair Scholars have not only engaged in profound research but have also paved the way for those in search of answers to an array of questions spanning dual language learning, mutagenesis, critical race theory, adverse childhood experiences, and the impact of nerve stimulation on language retention.

To the scholars featured in this inaugural issue, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication, intellectual contributions, and mental labor invested in your work. A sincere congratulations to the following McNair Scholars whose endeavors are showcased in this collection:

- Jordan Crupper, Psychology
- Victoria Holmes, Psychology & Sociology
- Cassandra Mascorro, Speech Language Pathology
- Josephine Murillo, Psychology
- Mariana Zollinger, Biology

I genuinely hope that readers share in my amazement and take pride in the exceptional determination demonstrated by these researchers in carrying out this remarkable work. As a lifelong learner and researcher, I am thrilled to offer others an opportunity to explore this compilation and eagerly anticipate the forthcoming volumes of this pivotal publication.