

July 2024

Re: Celebrating Summer 2024 Winthrop McNair Researchers



Dear Campus Community,

Continuing a Winthrop McNair tradition, I write to celebrate the outstanding work of our McNair Summer Research Interns and the Faculty Mentors who support them. Our annual July letter provides just one example of why Winthrop deserves its reputation for exceptional undergraduate research, including Winthrop's [Summer Undergraduate Research Experience \(SURE\)](#). If you braved the heat with Provost van Delden and Deans Sumter, Saksena, and Poole to attend our [Summer Research Symposium](#) last month, you saw the high quality of each Scholar's presentation. As a member of the Winthrop community, you share bragging rights with us because you are a part of the village that supports McNair students, faculty, and staff, thereby helping our students achieve these impressive outcomes.



Winthrop McNair Scholars after the awards ceremony at our national research conference hosted by SAEOPP June 26-30

Preparing for the summer research internship starts with the [Winthrop McNair Advisory Board's](#) insightful selections in the fall. The Scholars started planning their summer projects with their Mentors in the spring and hit the ground running on our first day, May 13. We anchor our internship schedule to the culminating presentations at the [McNair/SSS Research Conference](#) hosted by the Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (SAEOPP). Starting June 11th, our Scholars participated in remote judging of their presentations. A few days after our June 24 Symposium at the Shack, our students presented their research at the conference in Atlanta. Here are their projects.

Summer 2024 Scholar	Faculty Mentor	Summer 2022 Research Presentation Title	Pres. Type	SAEOPP Category
Alexandra Cameron	Dr. Jason Chung	Are The WNBA Roster Cuts A Detriment To The WNBA?	Oral	Business
Ansley Coleman	Dr. Bradley Tripp	What Are The Preventative Efforts Made by Juvenile Justice Practitioners To Keep Juveniles From Incarceration?	Oral	Social Science
Grace Drolet (Clemson)	Dr. Julie Orme	Relationships Between Mental Health Literacy and Help-Seeking Behavior Among Parent of Children Ages 5-12	Oral	Social Science
Morgan Dukes	Dr. Nicholas Grosseohme	Exploring the Impact of Cd ²⁺ on the Interaction Between Troponin-C and the Troponin-I Switch Peptide	Oral	Life Science

Emory-Alexis Lewis	Dr. Sara English	Consumer Knowledge of Overconsumption in the Clothing Industry and its Effects on Buying Behavior	Oral	Humanities
Porsha Nesbitt	Dr. Donna Nelson	Priming Strengths Enhances College Students' Coping Efficacy and Emotion Regulation	Oral	Social Science
Lidia Peralta	Dr. Victoria Frost	Phenotypic Analysis of Phage-Host Interactions	Oral	Life Science
Cierra Randolph	Dr. Nicholas Grossoehme	Exploring the Metal Dependence Between Troponin-C and the N-terminal Domain of Troponin-I	Oral	Life Science
Ty'teona Shannon	Dr. Jeffrey Sinn	Deference to Prestige and Climate Change Policy	Oral	Social Science
Timothy Speaks	Dr. Joanna Jackson & Prof. Larry Stevens	The Perceived Barriers to Pursuing a Career in Medicine Among Black Male Physicians in the Southeast United States	Oral	Business
Melissa Trejo	Dr. Merry Sleigh	Hispanic/Latino/e Adults' Generational Transmission, Acculturation and Attitudes Toward Mental Health Resources	Poster	Social Science
Jazlyn Wilson	Dr. Merry Sleigh	Post-Traumatic Growth Following Childhood Challenges in Black and White Women	Oral	Social Science

Student presenters came from institutions across the country, including Alabama State, Cal State Sacramento, Georgia State, Harding, Old Dominion, UCF, UNCG, U of FL, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and others. Again this year, Winthrop had an outstanding showing, and six Scholars earned cash prizes from \$200 to \$500. These awards show the diligence and excellence of each award winner and the faculty mentors who shepherded them through their projects. Even more of Winthrop's presentations were worthy of a top spot.

2024 Scholar	Mentor	SAEOPP Presentation Award
Morgan Dukes	Dr. Nicholas Grossoehme	3 rd Place in Life Sciences
Grace Drolet	Dr. Julie Orme	2 nd Place in Social Sciences
Alexandra Cameron	Dr. Jason Chung	2 nd Place in Business
Timothy Speaks	Dr. Joanna Jackson	1 st Place in Business
Melissa Trejo	Dr. Merry Sleigh	1 st Place in Posters
Emory-Alexis Lewis	Dr. Sara English	1 st Place in Humanities

All 12 Scholars contributed to this strong showing. That half of our Summer Scholars earned awards reflects the value of the constant support and constructive feedback all the Scholars gave each other and the specialized resources that are unique to our program, like Dr. Matt Hayes (Stats and Methods Coach since 2010) and Stephanie Bartlett (Writing Coach since 2012). Winthrop's research interns are also very fortunate to have guest experts teach about scientific reading and dissemination (Dr. Jason Hurlbert); effective written communication, time allocation, and verbal reasoning (Dr. Gloria Jones); qualitative research methodology (Dr. Mike Sickels); finding and managing scientific articles (Cody Walters and Joseph Dupuy); effective oral and poster presentations (Amanda Cavin, Dr. Jordan Lewis, and Dr. Matt Hayes); and professionalism (Marian Moorner). And, every step of the way, Marian Moorner and Shyanne Hamrick, our Program Assistant and GA, have supported the Scholars.

There is a long list of Winthrop people who helped individual Scholars, the cohort, and/or our program's success this past year: President Serna, Provost van Delden, Interim Provost Judge, Dean Poole, Deborah Broome, Dean Takita Sumter, Michelle Hare, Dawn Sayer, Victoria Balberde, Anna Triester, our Controller's office, the experts in Printing Services, so many folks in IT, the entire offices of HR and Payroll, Michelle Smith, Dr. Jeremy Lopuch, Dr. Joni Boyd, Candace Bass, Jessica Peeples, Gabby Jacobsen, and Stephanie Mays Walker. A special thanks to Drs. Sal Blair, Nick Grossoehme, and Mike Lipscomb and their teams whose year-round efforts provided robust undergraduate research opportunities across campus.

McNair Purpose & Funding. Winthrop's [Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program](#) is funded through September 2028 by a five-year renewable TRiO grant from the U.S. Department of Education. \$272,364 in federal funding is provided each year for programming and materials that will help 30 eligible students prepare for doctoral study. This represents 74% of program costs. Winthrop contributes the remaining 26% of the budget with approximately \$94,930 in cash and in-kind funds. Eligible students are undergraduates who are first-generation college students from low-income families (FG&LI) and/or who come from backgrounds underrepresented in graduate education. At least 2/3rds of the 30 new and continuing participants Winthrop serves each academic year must meet the FG&LI criteria. Most of the 206 programs around the country are funded to serve 25 students. Federal, University, and Foundation allocations; the dedication of our faculty mentors; the widespread support of staff, faculty, administrators, and Trustees; Winthrop's extraordinary undergraduate research experiences; and the efforts of our staff and our [Advisory Board](#) help us stretch our resources to support the individual research and graduate admissions goals of each Scholar.

Program Objectives. Winthrop earns prior experience points for serving 30+ participants each year, 2/3rds of which are FG&LI, and meeting our annual program objectives (below).

- 1. Research: 96% of participants complete high quality research or scholarly projects** (100% this year)
- 2. Immediate Grad Enrollment: 50% of graduates immediately enroll in graduate programs**
(so far, 57% of Dec. 2023 and May 2024 grads applied for and received offers for 2024-25)
- 3. Continued Grad Enrollment: 75% of new graduate students are enrolled the following fall**
(100% of fall 2022 new grad students were enrolled fall 2023)
- 4. Doctorates: 14% of graduates will earn a [research doctorate](#) within 10 years**
(18% of the seventeen 2013-14 grads: 3 PhDs; we also have 1 PsyD, 1 PharmD, and 1 PhD candidate)
Qualifying doctorates are listed in Table A-1 at <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf21308/technical-notes#technical-tables>.

Including this year's 11 new participants, our program has served 210 outstanding students since our first year, 2009-10. 97% of all McNair participants persisted to earn a Bachelor's Degree. 84% of McNair graduates enrolled in graduate programs. 75% of all McNair grad students persisted to earn at least one graduate degree. By the end of this summer, 37 of our alumni will hold doctorates.

Please brag with us. The support our McNair program receives from the entire Winthrop community means all of Winthrop has earned the right to brag about Winthrop McNair Scholars' research and graduate degree achievements. We appreciate that Winthrop faculty, staff, Directors, Chairs, Deans, and senior leaders step up throughout the year to directly or indirectly support Winthrop's McNair Scholars. In particular, the Psychology Department and College of Arts & Sciences allow me to do this wonderful work throughout the year.

Please help us recruit the next cohort of new McNair Scholars by encouraging strong undergraduates at Winthrop and other SC universities to learn about the program at <https://www.winthrop.edu/mcnair/> and determine if it is a good fit for their doctoral goals. We accept applications during fall and spring semesters, but complete applications received by November 1 are guaranteed consideration for 2024-25. After Labor Day, students can find out if they are eligible by completing Part 1 of the application, the online survey at: <https://tinyurl.com/IsMcNair4me>.

Thank you for your support of Winthrop McNair.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Fortner, Ph.D.
Proud Director, McNair Scholars Program
Professor of Psychology
Winthrop University

