

July 2026

Dear Colleagues,

I write to **celebrate the spectacular achievements of this summer's McNair Research Interns** and their Faculty Mentors. Those who attended our [Summer Research Symposium](#) on June 22nd were able to see the outstanding work our students were able to accomplish with the support of their faculty mentors. These 11 McNair projects are a reflection of the impressive work that happens every summer in Winthrop's [SURE](#) program. This 2026 McNair Projects are listed below.



Winthrop McNair Summer Research Interns after the Summer Research Symposium June 22, 2026

SCHOLAR	TITLE	MENTOR
Ashlee Courtney	Arson Evidence Stability Analysis Through GC-MS	Dr. Cliff Calloway
Lindsey Dangelmaier	Scrolling, Comparing, and Buying: How Social Media May Influence Overconsumption Behaviors	Dr. Donna Nelson
Judith Diaz	Carrying the Weight: How Childhood Adversity, Trauma Symptoms, and First-Generation Identity Shape Academic Outcomes	Dr. Crystal Glover
Jayden Gaskins	Packaging Patriarchy in Pink: How Christian Nationalism Rebrands Modern Feminism for Political Ends	Dr. Ida Oesteraas
Jazzmyne Miller	The Relationship Between Sleep Quality, Sedentary Behavior and Mental Fatigue in College Students	Dr. Joni Boyd
Myles Moore	Lysogens and Superinfection Immunity	Dr. Victoria J. Frost
Maite Torres Guilhamelou	Herb-serving stomata: amphistomy occurs in herbaceous but not woody plants in longleaf pine sandhills	Dr. Jennifer Schafer
Annalise I. C. Turner	The Challenges and Experiences of OT Treatment for Spanish-Speaking Hispanic Adults With TBI by Multilingual and Interpreter-Assisted Occupational Therapists	Dr. Julie Orme
Karen Uribe-Huizache	Overexpression of RYBP in Glioblastoma Cells Increases Expression of ALX4 and SEMA6D	Dr. Daniel Stovall
Sasha J. Vorontsov	Characterizing interactions between Adeptophagia gp78 and its bacterial host	Dr. Victoria J. Frost
Chris Wilburn	Avoid or Approach? How Reflecting on the Past Influences Self-Perceptions and Future Education and Career Intentions	Dr. Donna Nelson

Preparing for the summer research internship started with the [Winthrop McNair Advisory Board's](#) discerning selections in November and February. Scholars and Mentors started planning their summer projects in the spring and our first day on campus was May 18. June 15-18, Scholars around the country delivered their presentations to conference Judges via Zoom. The week of our Symposium, the Scholars presented in Atlanta at the [McNair-SSS Research Conference](#) hosted by the Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (SAEOPP).

Eight of the 11 Winthrop McNair researchers placed in the top three of their presentation categories, earning a total of \$2800 in cash awards. Other schools with winners included UCLA, Cal. State Sacramento, Univ., of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Univ. of Florida, Morehouse, LSU, Central Michigan Univ., and Jackson State. The highest overall score was earned by the two Social Sciences awardees who tied for first place (including Winthrop's Lindsey Danglemaier).

In order of disbursement, here are this year's award winners:

1. Ashlee Courtney (Dr. Cliff Calloway) 3rd in Physical Science \$200
2. Lindsey Dangelmaier (Dr. Donna Nelson) 1st in Social Science \$500
3. Chris Wilburn (Dr. Donna Nelson) 2nd in Social Science \$300
4. Sasha Vorontsov (Dr. Victoria Frost) 1st in Life Science \$500
5. Myles Moore (Dr. Victoria Frost) 2nd in Life Science \$300
6. Jayden Gaskins (Dr. Ida Oesteraas) 2nd in Humanities \$300
7. Jazzmyne Miller (Dr. Joni Boyd) 3rd in Health \$200
8. Judith Diaz (Dr. Crystal Glover) 1st in Education \$500



SAEOPP President Holly Lawrence (front row, fourth from the left) with the award winners who were present. Yellow stars indicate Winthrop McNair Scholars.

73% of Winthrop's presenters earned SAEOPP awards. This reflects the excellent mentoring each Scholar received, the support they gave each other, and the specialized resources that are unique to our program, especially Dr. Matt Hayes (Stats and Methods Coach since 2010) and Stephanie Bartlett (Writing Coach since 2012). Winthrop's Scholars are also very fortunate to have guest experts teach about scientific reading and dissemination (Dr. Jason Hurlbert); data visualization (Erin Patel); effective writing and verbal reasoning (Dr. Gloria Jones); finding and managing scientific articles (Cody Walters); effective oral and poster presentations (Amanda Cavin and Dr. Matt Hayes); time management (Morgan Baxter); and professionalism (Marian Moorner).

McNair Funding. Winthrop's [Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program](#) is in year three of its current 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 cash and in-kind funds. The Winthrop University

Foundation provides additional funds to support critical services, like graduate test prep and test registration, which are unallowable federal costs. In addition, both the Office for Student Success and College of Arts and Sciences supported award-winning McNair research this summer.

Program Objectives. Winthrop earns prior experience points for the next grant competition by serving 30+ participants each year, at least 2/3rds of whom are both low-income individuals and first generation college students, and by meeting our objectives.

- 1. Research: 96%** of participants complete high quality research or scholarly projects
- 2. Immediate Grad Enrollment: 50%** of graduates immediately enroll in graduate programs
- 3. Continued Grad Enrollment: 75%** of new graduate students are enrolled their second fall
- 4. Doctorates: 14%** of bachelor's graduates will earn a [research doctorate](#) within 10 years

Last year (2045-25), we exceeded all objectives. Obj.1 Research: **100%**; Obj. 2 Immediate Grad Enrollment: **54%**; Obj. 3 Continued Grad Enrollment: **91%**; and Obj. 4 Doctorate: **27%**

This year (2025-26), we are poised to exceed all objectives. Our summer interns' and continuing Scholars' conference presentations and manuscript submissions helped us **exceed our research objective**. We should also exceed our grad admissions objective because **9 of our 12 graduates have accepted graduate admissions offers**. We are on track to exceed our continued enrollment objective, which we'll check at the beginning of October. And **30% of our 2015-16 graduates earned a research doctorate** (objective 4).

Including this year's 11 new participants, our program has served 232 outstanding students since our first year, 2009-10. All but 5 of students served (98%) earned a bachelor's degree or are currently enrolled. 84% of Winthrop McNair graduates enrolled in graduate programs. This summer, three of our alumni successfully defended their doctoral dissertations.

Winthrop's McNair project is so successful because of the tremendous support faculty, staff, and administrators provide our students and program. Housed in the [Office for Student Success](#), McNair enjoys daily support from AVP Poole, Candace Bass, and Jess Peeples. Provost van Delden and many good folks throughout Academic Affairs, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Foundation, Procurement, Accounts Payable, Grants & Sponsored Research Development, Financial Aid, Res Life, HR, IT, the Bookstore, Printing Services, the Grad School, Alumni Relations, Facilities Management, Records & Registration, Student Account Services, Dacus Library, Chartwells, University Relations, Institutional Research, Admissions, and Campus Police, repeatedly step up to help McNair students and staff. We cannot do what we do without this support. Thank you, all of you.

What's next? **Please help us recruit** next year's outstanding cohort by encouraging academically strong first gen, TRiO income-eligible undergraduates at Winthrop and other SC universities to to explore and apply to McNair. Info is available here: <https://www.winthrop.edu/mcnair/>. Applications open Labor Day and should be submitted by November 1.

Thank you for your support of Winthrop McNair.

Cheryl A. Fortner, Ph.D.

Proud McNair Director and Professor of Psychology