**Apply Today!**

- **McNair Explorers** applications are open for incoming freshmen and sophomores.
- **McNair Scholars** applications are due March 27, 2020, for qualifying juniors.
- Apply via our website: [https://www.depts.ttu.edu/diversity/mcnair/](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/diversity/mcnair/)

**Tip of the Week:**
Keep in mind the scope of your research project! When researching, it can be easy to get sidetracked by others’ good ideas, but stick to your own research questions. Think critically about what you should include or exclude to keep your project focused on the issue YOU are studying.

**Grad School Plans:**
I was recently accepted to the Fall 2020 class at the Texas Tech University School of Law with a full-tuition scholarship.

**Why She Loves McNair:**
McNair has completely changed my life. They have taught me how to be a researcher, and it was through this experience that I was able to find what drives my passion.

My favorite part of McNair is the friendships I’ve gained. It is interesting being part of a cohort that is going through the same experience but have drastically different interests. I also really love the support I receive from everyone. It is like an extended family.

~Rebekkah Navas

**About Rebekkah:**
I’m an Apparel Design and Manufacturing major with Retail Management and Legal Studies minors. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my husband and pets. I really love reading and watching movies. I also enjoy gardening and am excited to expand my garden this spring.

**Her Research Interests:**
My research interests include sustainability in the apparel and retail industries.

I presented my project, *The future of sustainability in retail: The application of blockchain as an alternative to ecolabels*, at the International Textile and Apparel Association Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

**Like Us? Follow Us!**
The TTU McNair Scholars are exceptional, and it’s time to publicly highlight what we do at Texas Tech and beyond. Since funding was renewed in 2017, TTU McNair has taken innovative steps towards preparing participants for graduate studies. A short list includes beginning the McNair Explorers Program, celebrating a 100% graduate school acceptance rates for participants who applied, and founding a new campus service club called McNair Outreach. But we want to share what is happening in our McNair family with a much wider audience.

Starting Spring 2020, public profiles featuring our students, events, and professional development will be available on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We want to network with YOU! So, like us, follow us, and share with us. Make sure you don’t miss what is happening with the Texas Tech McNair Program by finding us on social media today.

~Rebekah Smith

**Like Us on Facebook!**
TTU McNair Program, @texastechmcnair

**Follow Us on Twitter!**
TTU McNair Program, @ttumcnair

**Find Us on Instagram!**
TTU McNair Program, @ttumcnairprogram
Celebrate Black History

Since 1926 official celebrations of Black history have taken place across America. What began as just one week each year to honor Black identity has grown into a month-long recognition of what President Gerald Ford termed “the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

Today we continue to celebrate those accomplishments, and TTU McNair plans to be a part of it!

Why February?
Originally, February was chosen to celebrate the birthdays of Fredrick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Another landmark event that happened in February was the founding of the NAACP in 1909.

Did You Know?
Each year Black History Month has a theme endorsed by the president. The theme for 2020 is “African Americans and the Vote” to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment granting Black men the right to vote and the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women’s suffrage.

A McNair Connection:
Ronald E. McNair’s first trip into space took place in February of 1984. His 1984 flight as a mission specialist made McNair the second African American and the first Bahá’í to fly in space.

Ways to Celebrate:
Here are some ideas from the NAACP:
- Support a Black business
- Spend time with a Black elder in your community
- Cook a soul food meal
- Read a book by a Black author
- Attend (or host) a Black culture event in your community
- Study the African diaspora
- Explore Black music
- Register to vote!

Share with Us! Which figures from Black history do you admire? Post your responses on our social media pages.

Director’s Corner
I am excited about this Spring – so many amazing things are happening! Senior scholars are receiving acceptances to graduate schools and others are figuring out their research projects. At TTU McNair, we always seem to accomplish so much in the Spring.

In January, Trish and I had the pleasure of attending the McNair Promising Practices Institution (MPPI) at the University of Central Florida. I presented on how to raise the profile of your McNair program on your campus, titled “McNair Who?” I also was elected Vice President of the newly formed McNair Association of Professionals (MAP). I am excited about this opportunity as I work with McNair staff from across the nation. Trish was able to network and find some amazing new programming for our McNair Scholars. It was wonderful to get away and network and learn from so many great people, but it is nice to back in Texas – nothing beats the hospitality of our Red Raiders.

~Jon Crider