

## Dr. Ronald E. McNair



Dr. Ronald Erwin McNair was born on October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina. He received a BS in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971, graduating *magna cum laude*. He entered graduate school at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) the same year. While at MIT, McNair developed some of the earliest HF/DF and high-pressure CO lasers and published several papers on lasers and molecular spectroscopy. He received his PhD in Physics from MIT in 1976.

Dr. McNair became a staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, California. He also received three honorary doctorate degrees and many fellowships and commendations.

In January 1978, Dr. McNair finally realized his dream of becoming an astronaut and was the second African American to fly to space. He completed the one-year training and evaluation in August, 1979, making him eligible for assignments as a mission specialist astronaut on Space Shuttle flight crews.

Dr. McNair died on January 28, 1986 in the explosion aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*. After his death, members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program to encourage minority, low-income and first generation college students to expand their educational opportunities and pursue graduate studies. This program is dedicated to the high standards of achievement inspired by Dr. McNair's life.

“Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them.”

-Dr. Ronald E. McNair

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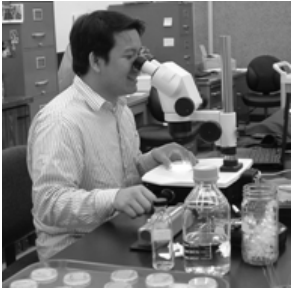
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Portland State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

# Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program



## Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at Portland State University



The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at Portland State University (PSU) works with motivated and talented undergraduates who want to pursue PhDs. It introduces juniors and seniors who are first-generation and low-income, or members of under-represented groups to academic research and to effective strategies for getting into and graduating from PhD programs.

The McNair Scholars Program has academic-year activities and a full-time summer research internship. Scholars take academic and skills-building seminars and workshops during the year, and each scholar works closely with a faculty mentor on original research in the summer. Scholars present their research findings at the McNair Summer Symposium and at other conferences, and are encouraged to publish their papers in the McNair Journal and other scholarly publications.

The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program was established in 1986 by the U.S. Department of Education and named in honor of Challenger Space Shuttle astronaut Dr. Ronald E. McNair.

## Services provided by the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program include the following:

- ◇ Summer Research Internship to work on an original research project with a faculty mentor
- ◇ Faculty mentoring to help formulate research interests and develop research skills
- ◇ A \$2800 summer research internship stipend
- ◇ Academic year seminars and other scholarly activities designed to prepare students for graduate and doctoral studies
- ◇ Test-taking workshops
- ◇ Academic counseling and tutoring
- ◇ Assistance in graduate admissions and financial aid
- ◇ Assistance in presenting and publishing research
- ◇ Participation in an active PSU McNair Scholar community

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The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program is funded by a four-year \$924,000 grant from the US Dept of Education. Portland State University provides \$528,968 in cost-share funds over the same four-year period.

## Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must be either low-income individuals who are first-generation college students, and/or members of a group traditionally underrepresented in doctoral education as defined by the US Department of Education (see program website for more details).

Additional qualifications include the following:

- ◇ Full-time student status at PSU
- ◇ Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
- ◇ Junior or Senior undergraduate status, based on total credit hours at the end of the current academic year
- ◇ US citizenship or permanent US residency
- ◇ Intention to graduate from PSU and immediately enter an academic graduate program with the goal of attaining a PhD



## For further information:

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