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Iowa State University McNair Program
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Introducing the Newest McNair Scholars.
THE 2016 COHORT.

This fall the McNair Program welcomed 15 new Scholars. Two students from this group plan to graduate in 2017 and are completing the traditional two-year McNair experience in one year. The Scholars are busy establishing faculty and graduate student mentors, as well as their McNair research projects. We are excited to work with these amazing scholars from disciplines all across campus.

Summer 2016 Scholar Activities
While in the McNair Program, the Scholars are encouraged to make the most out of their summer. Take a look at how two of our McNair Scholars’ spent their summers!

**Marcos Cortes** spent his summer in Sidney, Ohio, working with Emerson Climate Technologies as an A/C Quality and Lean Co-op. He was tasked in monitoring compressors in order to track abnormalities and analyzed variations in plant equipment from locations spread throughout the U.S. and Mexico. He also implemented a new method for oil verification and did an oral presentation on his project.

**David Ortiz** participated in a REU at the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio. There he worked on the project *Strategic addition of wetlands to a watershed: Reduction of total sediment loads.* The project consisted of him creating a model of the Maumee River Watershed (largest watershed that feeds into the Great Lakes) using ArcMap and SWAT. The model simulated the addition of wetlands in the watershed and reduction in sediment loads into Lake Erie.

**Berenice Real** was a part of the NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program at Ohio State University. It was a week-long intensive program for fellows to learn about the field of student affairs with 40 other fellows from across the U.S.

**Dhynasah James** also spent time this summer at Ohio State University. She worked on the project *The role of PABI on RNA transport.* She studied three different genes whose functions were unknown but used fusion PCR and reporter constructs with a GFP Protein to learn their functions.

**David Montealegre** participated in a REU in Utah at Brigham Young University. His project was the analysis of thin films made of cobalt and platinum multi-layers. The cobalt layers are ferromagnetic and line up their magnetic movements into magnetic domains. The previous applied magnetic field has an affect on the density of the magnetic domains. The question for the summer project was if the sequence of applied fields affects the domain density as well. The previous sequence was from largest to smallest, while the new one was in reverse sequence.

**Stanley Barbel** went to the University of Arizona and participated in the Association of University Research in Astronomy working on the project *Graphical User Interface.* The project created a computer program that allowed users to interact with hardware mounted on/inside the Kitt Peak telescope.

**Chandler Wilkins** participated in the REU program at Texas A&M University. The basis of the program was to investigate social disparity and social vulnerability. His research project focused on the impacts and restoration of neighborhoods in Galveston, Texas post-hurricane Ike. He worked alongside Dr. Walter Gillis Peacock of Texas A&M and Dr. Sara Hamideh of Iowa State.

**Andrew Guinness** spent the summer at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health working with Dr. Flaminia Catteruccia’s lab on mating-transferred hormones in malaria infected mosquitoes. He explored potential molecular targets for mosquito sterilization in order to control populations and prevent disease transmission.
Two New Members of the McNair Team

This fall, we welcomed two new members to the ISU McNair Team. Angie Mallory, a McNair alum from Montana State University and a third year Ph.D. student majoring in Rhetoric and Professional Communication is our new Writing Consultant. Mitchell "Mitch" Stephenson, a Ph.D. student in Biomechanics is our new Statistics Consultant.

Angie is a ¼ time graduate assistant devoting ten hours a week to working directly with first and second year Scholars primarily on the written component of their in-class research projects. This includes writing research abstracts for conferences and also writing the final research report.

Angie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our program. She has been trained as an interdisciplinary writing consultant through the Center for Communication Excellence (CCE) giving her the expertise to work with students across all major fields of study.

Our alumni have consistently told us that it would have been very helpful to have had some training on analyzing data while in McNair. We listened and are very lucky to have Mitch on board as our Statistics Consultant. Mitch will work with our students as needed on analyzing data for their in-class research projects as well as assist the staff with program data collection and analysis.

We are very happy to have both Angie and Mitch on board!

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Please join our McNair groups to stay connected!

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