



# "The Doctor"

## McNair Scholars Program

Now Accepting Applications



The McNair Scholars Program is looking for new participants for the 2018 - 2019 academic year. The Program is designed for students who are interested in pursuing doctoral studies. Support and services for graduate school planning include, graduate school exploration, research opportunities, faculty mentoring, writing assistance, and Graduate Record Examination preparation.

The application period is open until Monday, April 28. To be eligible for the Program, students must meet the following criteria:

- U.S. citizenship or permanent residency
- Full-time enrollment at WSU (between 40 - 90 cum. hrs.)
- Cumulative GPA of 2.75 or 3.0 in the last 60 credit hours
- Be either first generation and low income or a member of a group traditionally underrepresented in graduate education (e.g., African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian).

## Working With Your Mentor: Student Perspective

by Kevontrez Jones

Kevontrez is currently working towards a doctoral degree in theoretical and applied mechanics at Northwestern University. He participated in the McNair Program from 2014 to 2016. During his time with McNair, he offered this advice to student researchers.

"I have been able to establish a good relationship with my mentor over time. In the beginning, I was afraid to talk to him, but after regular interaction, that faded away. My mentor stresses the importance of the independent aspect of the research. He generally only intervenes when it is necessary and I really like that. Because my work is so independent, I feel I am able to learn more and understand the key concepts better.

Often times we get results in the lab that seem 'groundbreaking' but may be the product of bad sample preparation or bad testing parameters. It is important to ask, "does this make sense?" and use logic when interpreting results. I don't show results to my mentor unless I am certain they are correct or if I can't discover why I am getting faulty data. Regardless of my results, I've learned that it's very important to always keep my mentor up-to-date on my progress."



### Reminder

Final literature reviews are due  
**May 26, 2018.**

You should incorporate edit suggestions from both the McNair writing tutor and your research mentor before submitting the final draft.

### Birthdays

*Happy Birthday to those celebrating during the months of March, April and May*

McKenna Douglas • 3/6

Tracia Banuelos • 4/14

Lupe Fraire • 3/8

Josh Villa • 4/16

Marsha Norton • 3/16

Inneke Vargas • 4/17

Zane Storlie • 3/17

Christian Saldana • 5/2

Elizabeth Ramirez • 4/2

Andrea Ponds • 5/22



# Grammatically Speaking: 5 Tips to Improve Your Academic Writing

Wanting to improve your writing should be a top priority for all aspiring graduate students. Your research might be sound, but if you are unable to write clearly, you will not succeed in academia. It's not enough to have a good idea, you have to demonstrate it in writing. A paper full of spelling mistakes does not convey a positive image.

## 1. Clear, Concise, and Well-constructed Language

Legibility takes precedence over everything else.

Text needs to be grammatically sound and appropriately framed in order to be surmised by the intended audience without an effort. The reader must not go through the hassles of deducing the content because it is not competently framed.

Practice economy in writing: avoid colloquial phrases, contractions, run-on sentences, and extreme verbosity in language. Try not to digress away from the topic.

Maintain a temperate and clinical tone. Any inclusion of amusing subtext will be frowned upon in academic circles.

## 2. Construct Veritable Content

Make sure content is well-founded and in keeping with established facts.

Fortify your content with substantiated statements. For example, the statement, "Today's children are not as healthy as those in the previous generation," sounds very cursory without any citations. The same statement evidenced by the empirical research that went behind it and/or a mention of the correct statistical numbers contrasting two generations would make it more clear and definitive. Further, using evidence to support your writing will help keep the undesirable controversies at bay.

If you speak about topics you don't know about, you will damage your reputation and credibility in topics on which you are an expert.

## 3. Plagiarism: Stay Away From It

In academic writing, there are few intellectual offenses with greater consequences than passing off someone else's content as your own. Plagiarism is the greatest assault on a researcher's credibility and may result in expulsion and loss of professional standing.

It is okay to take a leaf from previous authors' research and opinions, but do not merely rehash the content without acknowledging its origin. \\

Academic writing stresses the importance of documenting sources of words, images, and ideas. Make sure that sources are correctly cited.

## 4. Avoid Over-quoting

Word for word quoting is legitimate in certain situations, but over-quoting makes the content seem borrowed. Insert direct quotations only when you cannot possibly express the equivalent meaning in your own words.

For a major chunk of your document, paraphrasing is suggested. Paraphrasing simplifies a selection, but may not necessarily condense it. Further, ensure that the paraphrased content is attributed to its original source.

Wanting to improve your academic writing should be a top priority for all aspiring graduate students.

## 5. Summarize

Confining your paper to an allocated number of words is one of the most daunting tasks in academic writing. Summarizing simply means doing away with all the extraneous content without sacrificing the kernel of the topic.

Ensure that your final product is terse and focused. This may entail mentioning just eight case-studies instead of the 32 you have or pruning the document to a third of its original size, but it is more important for your manuscript to meet academic tenets.

Source: <http://www.nextscientist.com/tips-improve-your-academic-writing/>



# University of North Texas McNair Research Conference



McNair Students had the opportunity to attend the 2018 Texas National McNair Research Conference hosted by the University of North Texas.

by **Inneke Vargas**

The concentration of the graduate school showcase gave scholars the opportunity to hear real life expectations of graduate school admissions and the lifestyle changes to expect. The fair was a great way to get information from multiple colleges at one time. Representatives provided details on funding opportunities available and gave insight regarding internships and fellowships for additional income while attending graduate school.

The poster presentations were amazing. I was impressed with the variety of subjects and it made me feel comfortable with knowing what presentations look like when I prepare to present myself. One presentation that was interesting was about the state of the Black American family. The presenter did an excellent job of researching this specific issue, the historical aspects, and the future projection of this topic.

The keynote speaker Dr. Flores Neimann was riveting. Hearing her story and how it mirrors that of so many of the students gave us all hope for our own accomplishments.

Seeing the panel of women describing their journeys made it apparent that while we may not all be on traditional paths, it is still possible to obtain our goals. Hearing people talk about the struggles and perseverance makes the lofty dream of graduate school more realistic.

My personal take away was the confidence I gleaned for my own work and future presentations. I do not believe I would have the same mindset had I not had the opportunity to attend this conference.

## Events to Come

MARCH

- 2 Devlin Hall, Rm 105  
Grad Seminar (2 - 3 p.m.)  
Student Money Mgmt, *"Managing Grad School Debt"*
- Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)  
Ashley Cervantes, *"Parts of a Manuscript"*

APRIL

- 6 Devlin Hall, Rm 105  
McWrite Meeting (2 - 3 p.m.)  
Ashley Cervantes, *"Writing in Review"*
- Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)  
Ashley Cervantes, *"Research Concerns"*

- 20 Devlin Hall, Rm 105  
Grad Prep Meeting (2 - 3 p.m.)  
Jill Pletcher, *"Portraying a Professional Image"*

- 21 Devlin Hall, Rm 105  
Faculty Led Seminar (10 a.m. - noon)  
Dr. Robert Weems, *"What it Took to Get My PhD"*

## Research Deadlines

- 5/26 Final Literature Review Due
- 6/2 Abstract Due
- 6/9 Final Abstract Due
- 6/23 Manuscript Due
- 6/30 Final Manuscript Due
- 7/7 Summary Due
- 7/10-21 Mock Presentations
- 7/14 Final Summary Due
- 7/17 Posters Due
- 7/26 All Materials Due



## Someone Like Me: Froswa' Booker-Drew, PhD



Froswa' Booker-Drew, PhD, Leadership and Change



Dr. Booker -Drew received her PhD in Leadership and Change from Antioch University. Her research is based on social capital, diverse women, relational leadership and the work of Keagan and Lahey of Harvard's Immunity to Change. Booker-Drew is interested in impacting women assisting them in building varied social networks by understanding the power in their personal stories and identifying the barriers to change that keep women from creating the impact they desire.

She is a trained Immunity to Change facilitator, attended the Jean Baker Miller Institute on Relational Cultural Theory, and was invited to be a part of the International Dialogue on Relational Learning and Leadership. It was at this conference that she presented her work on women and social capital as a paper. Froswa' is also an Advanced Certified Coach Practitioner through the Certified Coaches Federation.

She is a graduate from Oklahoma City University with a Master of Liberal Arts in Humanities. She received a scholarship and an assistantship to attend OCU. Booker-Drew worked full-time as an Educational Consultant for two non-profit agencies in Oklahoma City while attending classes full-time. She received her undergraduate degree from The University of Texas at Arlington in History, with a minor in English, and an emphasis in Women's Studies/ Sociology. As a student, she was extremely involved in campus and community activities.

As Director of Community Affairs/Strategic Alliances of the State Fair of Texas, the largest fair in the United States, she is responsible

for all community initiatives, educational programming, partnership development and philanthropy on behalf of the organization.

Froswa' served as the former National Community Engagement Director for World Vision, US Programs as a catalyst, national partnership broker, and builder of the capacity of local partners, facilitating the emergence and strengthening of community-led initiatives to improve and sustain the well-being of children and their families in poverty and marginalized communities. Froswa' supervised program staff in Texas, Florida, Georgia, Washington, Illinois, California, New York, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. In this role, she was responsible for the development and implementation of the engagement strategy across the country, identifying local, regional and national partners and the creation and presentation of a training to educate organizations on Social Capital, Collective Impact, Asset Based Community Development. She also worked with staff to build the capacity of more than 3000 organizations in order to support children and families through training, the use of portfolio of World Vision Resources, convening and connecting organizations to one another through Community Engagement Days and Youth Engagement Days around the US.

### Regarding her experiences pursuing a doctoral degree:

"I was very fortunate because I attended a university that was focused on diversity and ensuring students had the support they needed to graduate. Initially, I struggled with the imposter syndrome. I really felt as if they were going to inform me that a mistake was made and I was not officially enrolled. When I discovered others felt that way, it gave me hope!

I struggled with balancing a full-time job, a child who was in elementary school, my husband and studying. I was very involved in the community through my job and I had to cut back on my community service work – especially serving on boards. I didn't have the time to commit and most of my free time went to my family and to finishing the requirements for the degree."

Sources:

[https://www.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/legacy/faculty/cmh0158/cv/cv\\_booker-drew\\_su16.pdf](https://www.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/legacy/faculty/cmh0158/cv/cv_booker-drew_su16.pdf)

<https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/doctoral-programs-women-of-color/>





# McNair Events



Current student Aja Molinar and three program alumni agreed to produce testimonials regarding the impact of the McNair Scholars Program.



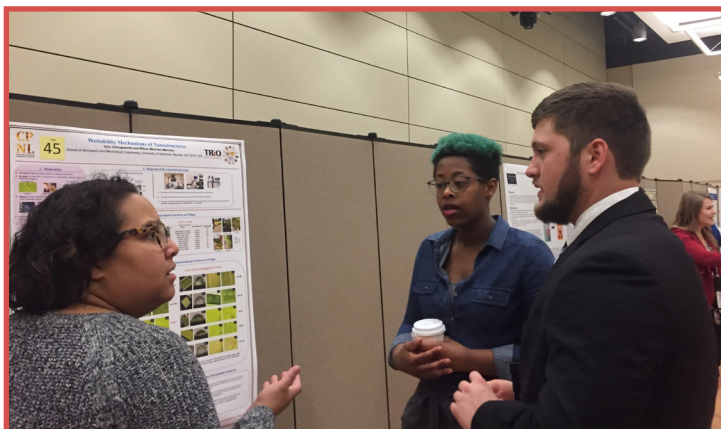
Alondra Del Real and Judy Chavira attended the 2018 National TRIO Day where students and alum from the Office of Special Programs were recognized.



McNair Alum and Georgia Tech Doctoral Student Joshua Palacios discussed the support he received from McNair during his testimonial.



McNair Alumni Dr. Christa Platt was recognized as McNair's TRIO Achiever during the 2018 National TRIO Day Celebration.



Inneke Vargas and Raven Hodges discuss ask questions during the poster presentations at the UNT McNair Research Conference.



Four McNair students attended the annual Dine Dress Interview event where they received tips regarding etiquette and interview skills.



## McNair Scholars Program: Graduate School SUPERPOWER





WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

TRIO PROGRAMS

McNair Scholars Program



McNair Scholars Program  
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Wichita, KS 67260-0199

Inside....

- Accepting Applications
- Grammatically Speaking
- Events to Come
- Someone Like Me?
- McNair Events

## McNair Fee Waivers/Fellowships

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), in conjunction with the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), has compiled a list of McNair incentives to help Scholars find graduate schools that offer application fee waivers and/or fellowships and other opportunities available to McNair Scholars.

This list can be found at [http://www.coenet.us/coe\\_prod\\_imis/COE/TRIO/McNair\\_Fee\\_Waiver\\_List/COE/NAV\\_TRIO/McNair\\_Scholars\\_Fee\\_Waiver\\_List.aspx?hkey=d459a62a-5577-4103-b125-8c3bb8aa5029](http://www.coenet.us/coe_prod_imis/COE/TRIO/McNair_Fee_Waiver_List/COE/NAV_TRIO/McNair_Scholars_Fee_Waiver_List.aspx?hkey=d459a62a-5577-4103-b125-8c3bb8aa5029)

### Highlighted Fellowship:

University of Texas at Austin waives applicaiton fees for McNair scholars and provides an assistantship opportunity. The McNair Scholars Graduate School Fellowships Program was initiated by the Graduate School to encourage undergraduate McNair Scholars to pursue graduate education at the university. Available at more than 100 colleges and universities throughout the country, the McNair Scholars Program prepares undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. Students who were McNair Scholars during their undergraduate work are eligible for nomination.

This fellowship provides a \$28,000, 12-month stipend, health insurance assistance and a tuition assistance benefit.

### “The Doctor”

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## McNair Facts: Did You Know?

Ronald E. McNair was a South Carolina native. He was born Oct. 21, 1950, in Lake City, a town of about 6,700 people now and about 80 miles east of Columbia. His father, Carl, repaired automobile bodies; his mother, Pearl, taught school.



When McNair was 9, he decided he wanted to check out some books from the whites-only library in Lake City. The librarian called the police. The officer suggested that the librarian let young Ron borrow the books. The librarian relented when Pearl McNair promised that her son would take care of them.

### Notice of Nondiscrimination

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