11-18-2008

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Recommended Citation
Record, Jody, "Funding For McNair Program Continues At UNH" (2008). UNH Today. 595.
https://scholars.unh.edu/news/595

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Funding For McNair Program Continues At UNH

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November 18, 2008

DURHAM, N.H. - A program at the University of New Hampshire that encourages low-income students and minority undergraduates to consider careers in college teaching and prepares them for doctoral study has received continued funding for the next four years.

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, named for astronaut Ron McNair who died in the 1986 space shuttle Challenger explosion, was established by Congress in 1986.

Federal law requires students to be from a first-generation, economically challenged background or to be in an underrepresented area of graduate study.

UNH will receive $278,900 annually for the next four years, an amount that will provide aid to 32 UNH students a year.

Academic services include courses in research grant proposal development and research methods and execution. Students may also enroll in writing workshops and preparation seminars for the GRE and graduate school, as well as in a college teaching introductory course.

Students are provided with research opportunities and faculty mentors.

The McNair Program is part of the federal TRIO programs (Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and Educational Opportunity Centers) and is administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Education.

The university has been home to the McNair Scholars Program since 1991. The program's academic internships and summer fellowships are awarded annually, on a competitive basis, to eligible undergraduates.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a New England liberal arts college and a major research university with a strong focus on undergraduate-oriented research. A land, sea and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

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