

# WELCOME

WELLESLEY  
**WIA** cNAIR  
SCHOLARS PROGRAM

# Introductions

Jocelyne Dolce: Director, McNair Scholars Program

Teo Barbalho: Assistant Director, McNair Scholars Program

Cathy Summa: Director of the Science Center & Principal Investigator, McNair Scholars Program

Dr. McCoy: Assistant Director of the Science Center



# Introductions – Let's meet YOU!

- Name
- Pronouns
- Class Year
- Major
- What are you most looking forward to for Thanksgiving break?

# Who is Ronald E. McNair?

**PhD '76 Laser Physics: Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology BS '71 Physics:  
North Carolina Agricultural and  
Technical State University (NCAT)**

McNair specialized in laser research before joining NASA in the late 1970's. In February 1984, he became just the second African American to reach space as a mission specialist aboard Challenger mission STS-41-B.

On January 28, 1986, McNair was among the seven crew members killed in the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion in Cape Canaveral, Florida.



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# Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

After McNair's death in the Challenger explosion, Congress provided funding to the US Dept. of Education to start a program in his name to support underrepresented students in their pursuit of post-graduate education.

**Program goals:** To support juniors and seniors from first-generation and low income or underrepresented backgrounds as they pursue undergraduate research and graduate education with the ultimate goal of increasing attainment of PhDs

**Wellesley McNair Scholars Program:** one of 200+ programs across the country, one of a few programs at a liberal arts college and the only program at a women's college. Our program is specifically focused on students in STEM disciplines.



# Benefits

Graduate School Application Preparation and Academic Support

Scholar Identity Development Support

Graduate School Visits

Application Preparation for Graduate School Fellowships

GRE Exam Fee Reduction Waivers

GRE Exam Preparation

Graduate School Application Fee Waivers

Free Transcripts for Graduate School Applications

Limited Academic Year & Summer Research Funding

Limited Support for Conference Attendance

Fun Events and Activities

**COMMUNITY!**

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# Expectations

Attend Bi-weekly Cohort Meetings

Attend 1:1 Advising Meetings

Academic Year & Summer Research

At least 1 Conference Presentation per year

Respond to Emails and Contacts in a Timely Fashion

Provide Regular Program Feedback

Ask for Help

# Application Components due Dec. 1 at 5pm

Application Form

Letters of Recommendation

Uploads

Eligibility form

Transcript and resume

Headshot photo





# Application Form Components

Application form in Qualtrics

Demographic information

2 required and 1 optional essay

# Letters of Recommendation

2 letters are required - should be from Wellesley or other college/university faculty/staff

Ask for letters ASAP

Guide for Recommenders on our website

Submit “Notify Your Recommenders” on our website to alert recommenders

Recommenders submit through link on our site; **due Dec. 8th at 5pm**



# Uploads: Eligibility Form

US Citizen/permanent resident

First generation **and** federally low income,  
and/or underrepresented in graduate education

Proof of income:

- Dependent/independent according to FAFSA
- # of people in household
- Total income from FAFSA or 1040 tax form
- Your signature **and** that of your parent/guardian (if you are dependent)



# Transcripts, Resume, and Headshot

2.8 GPA is required (after fall grades are submitted)

Submit current unofficial transcript for Dec. 1 deadline

We will email you after fall grades are submitted in early January to receive an updated transcript.

Your application will not be complete until we receive it.



# What happens after the application deadline?

We will determine eligibility in all areas.

All eligible applications will be reviewed by our selection committee.

Eligible applicants will be invited to a group interview in early-mid February.

# What are we looking for in applicants?

A demonstrated interest in pursuing a Master's, PhD or EdD in a STEM field

- Program is not designed to support professional degrees (MD/DO/RN/PA, JD, etc.)

Meet the eligibility criteria and GPA requirements

- Mix of majors/fields of interest/backgrounds

Community members who will benefit **and** contribute!

# Questions?

Feel free to contact us:

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