The TRIO McNair Scholars Program is a federally funded program designed to provide research and scholarly activities that promote the acquisition of a doctoral degree for first generation, low-income and underrepresented college students. The program was created in 1989 to increase the number of minorities pursuing teaching and administrative careers in higher education.

The program is named after Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D. While working on laser physics at the Hughes Research Laboratory, McNair was accepted into the astronaut program and was the second African-American to fly in space. During McNair’s second mission, the Challenger exploded 90 seconds into its flight, killing all seven crewmembers.

In 1995, Wichita State received funding from the U.S. Department of Education to begin the McNair Scholars Program. The program provides services to ensure that participants graduate with bachelor’s degrees and improve their chances of entering graduate programs leading to doctoral degrees. The McNair Program serves 28 students each year and is funded through 2017.

2014-2015 McNair Highlights

- 11 graduates
- 7 doctoral students
- 7 masters degrees earned

Noah Trammell, Maria Lucas, Ashley Cervantes, LaWanda Holt-Fields (director)