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Front Matter

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SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
MCNAIR SCHOLARS
PROGRAM
RESEARCH JOURNAL

* San José State University and McNair

The Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program was established by Congress in 1986 after the tragic explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger that killed seven crew members, including Dr. McNair. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the program provides institutions with grants to develop and implement successful programs that recruit promising and aspiring low-income and first-generation students and those from backgrounds underrepresented at the doctoral level and prepares them for the rigors of graduate level work. Currently, the program operates at 151 institutions across the country serving over 5000 scholars each year.

Since the McNair Scholars Program's inception at SJSU in 1996, McNair has successfully recruited over 300 low-income and first-generation students and individuals who are underrepresented at the doctoral level. Of those who have completed the program, 100% have earned their bachelor's degree, far exceeding the 16% - 20% for this population nationwide. Eighty percent of our SJSU graduates have finished or are pursuing a graduate school degree, and 100% of our students who are in graduate school are continuously enrolled. This year, 33% of our SJSU alumni who went off to graduate school attained their Ph.D.'s, which is an incredible feat to reach. SJSU has McNair alumni teaching or studying at universities across the United States, as well as in Germany, Columbia, Kenya, Australia, Turkey, and Morocco. We are extremely proud of our students and our program's successes.

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This journal can also be accessed at <http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/mcnair/>.

A special thanks to Associate Vice President for Student Transition and Retention Services Division of Student Affairs, Dr. Gregory Wolcott. Thank you for supporting our program and for sponsoring the McNair Scholars Journal at San José State University.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The San José State University McNair Scholars Program is pleased to present the seventeenth SJSU McNair Scholars Research Journal. This journal represents the diverse and practical research experiences of the McNair Scholars during the 2020-2021 academic year.

I would like to congratulate the scholars for their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments, especially during this COVID-19 spring and fall 2021 semesters, which was very difficult and took us all by surprise. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to the faculty mentors for their guidance, time, and commitment to the scholars, their research, and the program during these trying times. A particular word of thanks goes out to the families and extended support systems that made these outstanding presentations possible.

This year, we are honoring Alma Acosta Sanchez, Briana Anguiano, and Isabel Rangel. Alma Acosta Sanchez's work is called: "A Quasi-Experimental Study of the Impact of Virtual Service-Learning on College Students' Development of Compassion and Motivation for Service." She will be attending San José State University's Child & Adolescent Development program in Fall 2021. Briana Anguiano's work is called: "Ethnic Studies as a Vehicle of Empowerment: Students of Color and Their Educational Journey." She will be attending Columbia University's Teachers College, Teaching of Social Studies in Fall 2021. Isabel Rangel's work called: "*Testimonios*: The Experiences of an Undocumented Student in California Post-DACA Rescindment." She will be applying to graduate programs across the nation in Fall 2021.

On the cover of this year's journal, we have once again highlighted Brooke Finister's artwork, which reflects Brooke's journey as a black woman, and as a McNair Scholar at San José State University who accomplished so much and is now looking forward to her bright future as a graduate student at Columbia University.

In this updated special edition, we are recognizing and honoring the work of students from both the 2020-2021 cohort and earlier; you can find Scholars' works from previous years in the latter section of the journal. We are grateful for these virtuoso McNair Scholars for their continued brilliance and resilience, and hope they are striving to continue their dreams as academics and individuals.

We thank you very much for continuing to support our Scholars through your readership of our McNair Scholars Journal at San José State University.

Please continue to take care during these unprecedented times.

With the kindest regards, and wishes for a better year for all of us!

Maria Elena Cruz, PhD.

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