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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 5,000 scholars each year.

Since the McNair Scholars Program's inception at SJSU in 1996, McNair has successfully recruited over 350 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 eight 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, 4% of our SJSU alumni who went off to graduate school attained their Ph.D.'s. 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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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The San José State University McNair Scholars Program is pleased to present the nineteenth SJSU McNair Scholars Research Journal. This journal represents the diverse and practical research experiences of the McNair Scholars during the 2022-2023 academic year.

I would like to congratulate the Scholars for their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments, especially during this COVID-19 Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters which was very difficult but we all persevered. 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.

On the cover of this year's journal, we have highlighted Yeab Kebede's piece, which reflects her work in the medium of Digital Media, as well as her research, which is centered on highlighting excellence in Black art.

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 journal.

Please continue to take care during these unprecedented times.

Maria Elena Cruz, PhD.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

McNair Research Papers

1 Alejandra M. Aguirre

“The Impact of Culture on Health Perceptions and Help-Seeking Behaviors Among Older Latinos with Co-occurring Diabetes and Depression: A Literature Review.”

FACULTY MENTOR: Dr. Sang E. Rachel Lee, Department of Social Work

23 Katherine Coll

“Understanding Our Airways: How Lung Structure and Function is Impacted by Respiratory Infections and Immune Responses.”

FACULTY MENTOR: Dr. Walter Adams, Department of Biological Sciences

32 Reem Farhat

“The Effects of Exercise on the Mental Wellness of Children (ages 3-6).”

FACULTY MENTOR: Jason Ventura, Department of Psychology; Pamela Wells, School of Management, School of Global Innovation and Leadership

61 Yeab Kebede

“#ExistenceisResistance: Black Spartans Exhibition.”

FACULTY MENTOR: Dr. Frank Ortega, Department of African American Studies

74 Justise Wattree

“The Red Ribbon and the Black Cross: A Qualitative Study of the Relationship between Activism and Contemporary Black Church Responses to HIV in Oakland, CA.”

FACULTY MENTOR: Dr. Michael R. Fisher Jr., Department of African American Studies

103 Lysette Zaragoza

“A Cost-Effective and Smart Sensing Tissue-like Testbed for Surgical Training.”

FACULTY MENTOR: Dr. Lin Jiang, Department of Mechanical Engineering