

## **Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program Grant**

SNU announces funding of the new SNU McNair Scholars Program, designed to assist eligible SNU undergraduates in building the skills and confidence required to pursue a doctoral degree. This competitive program targets student scholars who demonstrate sound academic performance, strong potential for success in graduate school, and the intent to pursue a career in which a doctorate is required. SNU will receive a total of \$1,100,000 of federal funding through the U. S. Department of Education's TRIO Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. This includes a fifth extra year of funding, awarded because SNU scored in the top 10 percent of proposals submitted nationwide. SNU competed for the McNair grant along with 318 other institutions nationwide. Of the four institutions in the state awarded in this competition, SNU was the only private university in Oklahoma to receive funding.

A unique feature of the McNair Program is a paid research internship for each participant. Each McNair Scholar will work directly with at least one Ph.D. faculty mentor and receive individualized academic advising, preparation and mentoring focused on academic achievement, research experience, and professional acculturation. McNair Scholars build credentials that enable competitive applications to top graduate schools. Numerous universities across the country offer specially designated scholarships for McNair Scholars accepted into their graduate programs. Recent SNU graduates have gone on to doctoral degree programs at universities including Baylor University, Boston University, the University of Chicago, Cornell University, Duke University, Georgetown University, Rice University, Texas Tech University, Yale University, and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

The McNair Program, one of six federal TRIO programs funded through the Department of Education, is designed to prepare low-income and first-generation students along with those from other groups typically underrepresented in graduate studies. Almost one third of SNU undergraduates meet these qualifying criteria.