Dr. Ronald E. McNair

Dr. Ronald Erwin McNair was the second African American to fly in space. Born on October 21, 1950 to a struggling family in racially segregated Lake City, South Carolina, Ronald never accepted second best. In high school, he was a Star Scout, a ferocious football player, a skilled musician, and a karate champion. Upon graduating as valedictorian from Carver High School in 1967, he set a personal goal of attaining a PhD in 12 years. Ronald McNair continued his education at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, graduating magna cum laude with a BS in physics in 1971. At the age of 26, he earned his PhD in physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology—one year earlier than his goal. While working as a staff physicist with Hughes research Laboratory, Dr. McNair became nationally recognized for his work in the field of laser physics. NASA selected him for the space shuttle program in 1978. He was the second African-American to join the space program. Dr. McNair made his first space flight in 1984. Tragically, he and six other astronauts perished about the ill-fated space shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986.

To honor Dr. McNair, Congress endowed the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program to encourage first-generation college students from low-income backgrounds and/or underrepresented populations to pursue graduate studies.

The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program recognizes that the diversity of researchers is an integral component of scholastic excellence. This prestigious and competitive program is a comprehensive graduate preparatory and research initiative designed to encourage and prepare low-income first-generation and/or underrepresented populations for study at the doctoral level.

In 1996, the first cohort of Beloit College McNair Scholars was chosen. Since then, the program has been successfully guiding a new generation of scholars and researchers that will more accurately reflect the growing diversity in intellectual perspectives, life experiences, and cultures represented in the world today—over 150 Scholars to date.

The McNair Scholars Program is one of several TRIO programs federally funded by the Department of Education as mandated by Congress. In 1998, there were 99 McNair Programs around the nation working with over 2,500 students. Today, there are over 180 programs across the country serving approximately 4,500 students, encouraging them to pursue careers in academia and preparing them for doctoral study. You are now part of the prestigious McNair Scholars community!
Expectations – Scholar Agreement form

As a McNair Scholar, you have earned a place within a highly regarded, transformative post-baccalaureate achievement program. To maintain program integrity and to ensure your own success, you are expected to maintain the highest standards in and out of the classroom.

I, ___________________________ accept the offer to participate in the McNair Scholars Program at Beloit College. I understand that the purpose of this program is to prepare me for graduate study leading to a doctoral degree, and I am prepared to give my full commitment to this goal. I further agree to:

- Conduct myself in a manner consistent with the integrity, respect for others, collegiality, and active engagement characteristic of a Scholar.
- Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA and to put forth my best efforts to raise it as high as I possibly can.
- Maintain full-time student status.
- Attend and actively participate in all program activities and events, including weekend seminars as well as one-on-one and group meetings.
- Maintain regular contact with McNair program staff.
- Participate in the McNair Research Preparation Seminar.
- Complete a mentor-led research project during the Summer Research Institute.
- Present research at:
  - the McNair Scholars Symposium at the conclusion of the Summer Research Institute, and
  - at least two national conferences, such as the National McNair Scholars Conference or the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR).
- Complete a research project at an institution other than Beloit College during my second summer in the program.
- Participate in the GRE Preparation Workshop and to take the official exam.
- Participate in the McNair Graduate School Preparation Seminar and apply to at least three graduate programs.
- Maintain contact with McNair program staff after I graduate from Beloit College.

Scholar’s Signature / Date

_________________________________________ ________________________________
McNair Scholars Program Policies

Attendance

You are expected to attend all McNair program workshops, meetings, and events. If you cannot attend an event, you must contact the program director or their staff prior to the meeting. You are responsible for knowing whatever information is presented at the gathering.

During the Summer Research Institute, it is especially important that you meet with your mentor regularly and attend research updates as well as any meetings or workshops. Failure to do so can adversely affect your summer stipend award.

Grade Point Average Policy

Scholars are expected to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. If a Scholar’s GPA falls below 3.0, a warning letter will be sent to the Scholar. The Scholar is then expected to make an appointment with McNair staff to determine how his/her academic needs can best be supported.

Communication

Regular contact between scholars and program staff is essential to success in the McNair Scholars Program. Email is the primary form of communication used by the program because it is fast and efficient. It is each Scholar’s responsibility to check his/her email account regularly for announcements, class changes, travel information, etc.

Summer Housing / Employment

The McNair program provides on-campus housing (single room) for Scholars during the Summer Research Institute. Scholars are expected to live on campus unless extenuating circumstances prevent them from doing so. If you wish to live off campus, you must obtain prior approval from the program director. Please note also that housing and meal costs (as well as stipends) are taxed as they are considered part of your compensation.

During the Summer Research Institute, you are expected to commit your full-time attention to your research and other program activities. Because of this, you are not allowed to work at outside employment during the 8-week program. Your stipend is compensation for your time as a McNair Scholar.

Travel Policies
Scholars are encouraged to attend academic conferences and to visit prospective graduate schools. The McNair program will pay for costs associated with such travel. You must fill out a travel request form at least 30 days prior to any travel. Requests will be considered within one week of their submission. Funding requests are at the discretion of the director and subject to availability of funds.

**Conferences**
Attendance at research and professional conferences is a great way to gain experience in presenting research as well as an informative learning and networking experience that will enhance your knowledge and chances of admission to graduate programs. Travel proposals must be submitted at least one week prior to the conference early registration deadline. The proposal must include the following information: justification for the trip, registration materials, conference agenda, abstract if presenting, budget, dates and evidence of acceptance to particular conference. *Preference is given to Scholars who are in good standing with the program, are making satisfactory progress towards the completion of their degree, are maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and are participating in the majority of sponsored program activities.*

**Graduate School Visits and Fairs**
Visits to graduate school programs and fairs will greatly assist you in your school selection process. Travel proposals must be submitted at least 30 days prior to proposed travel date. The proposal must include the following information: travel dates; a detailed budget, including the costs that are covered by the host institution; and evidence of scheduled meetings with faculty, staff, or graduate students. *Coverage of visits is reserved for senior Scholars who are in good standing with the program, are making satisfactory progress towards the completion of their degree, are maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and are participating in the majority of sponsored program activities. Preference is also given for visits to programs for which you have already applied and/or been accepted.*

**Compensation and Expenses**
The McNair program will reimburse/pay for expenses incurred while attending research and professional conferences as well as graduate school visits. Be sure to *retain all receipts* and fill out an expense report upon your return. Note that expenses must be approved of beforehand on the travel request form.

Compensation, including stipends, application fees, and coverage of any graduate school visit expenses not covered by the host institution are subject to approval based upon your record of participation in McNair activities and program requirements.
**McNair Scholars Program Benefits**

**Skill-building seminars that include:**
- Discerning academic and career goals
- Scholarly and technical writing enhancement
- Professional oral presentation techniques
- Library services and research techniques
- Time management and stress management skills
- Instruction in research methodology, ethics, and development of research papers and presentations
- Graduate school application and acceptance process
- Writing personal statements and CVs
- Interviewing techniques and mock interview
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) preparation
- GRE fee-reduction waivers for Scholars who qualify financially
- Advising in graduate school admissions and financing

**Research opportunities include:**
- Faculty-mentored research projects
- $2,800 stipend for Summer Research Institute
- Second summer research opportunity at an off-campus institution of Scholar’s choice (stipend and expenses paid by host institution and/or supplemented by Beloit College McNair Scholars program as available)
- Presentation of research findings at conferences and symposia (local, regional, and national).

**Travel opportunities include:**
- Visits to regional graduate school fairs, student and/or professional academic conferences throughout the country (expenses covered)
- Sponsored group educational trips to other universities
- Financial assistance if needed when a Scholar is invited to visit a graduate school with that institution covering some or most of the expenses.

**Additionally:**
- McNair Scholars are eligible to receive graduate school application fee waivers and other incentives from more than 180 participating McNair institutions throughout the nation.
Vandalism Policy

Vandalism is hereby defined as all intentional damage to Beloit College property. This includes residential, academic, and recreational buildings and facilities.

1. Students found responsible for vandalism shall be held completely accountable for the entire cost of the damage they have done. All vandalism costs are billed at a time and one-half rate for labor since the work is above and beyond the normal expected repair work.

2. Students who accidentally break or damage property will be charged regular time labor rates if the damage is reported immediately (within 24 hours) to Security or the Residential Life Office.

3. Failure to report vandalism and to admit guilt to the proper authorities by the end of the next working day shall result in an additional vandalism fine to be charged to the account of the guilty student(s). This fine will consist of 50 percent of the total cost of repair or $25 if the repair cost comes to less than $50.

4. The associate dean of students or designated representative has the option of imposing a work penalty in place of a financial penalty if he/she feels this is a more effective means of restitution and education.

5. All money collected as a result of vandalism fines shall be placed in a special account. The Residential Life Committee of Beloit Student Congress will advise the Office of Residential Life how these funds shall be allocated for specific residence hall improvements.

6. If individual responsibility for the vandalism or damages cannot be determined, the dean of students or representative will levy an equal charge to all members residing on the floor or living area involved. The charge levied on the members of the floor or living space will include only the cost of repair for damages. The floor and/or individual has the right to appeal to the judicial board. In cases of appeal, the judicial board has the right to determine what living area is involved.

7. All heavily-traveled public ways, as determined by the dean of students or director of residential life, will be exempt.

Fire Alarms and Extinguishers

Fire safety equipment (fire extinguishers, fire alarms, and smoke detectors) and evacuation/exit plans are installed in every building to protect the residents in case of a fire. Tampering with this equipment endangers the safety of others, is a violation of Wisconsin law, and will be considered a serious offense by the College. All tampering and/or damage to fire equipment will result in a fine of $100 for the offender if apprehended, or $10 per person on the floor where the incident occurred if no one person is found to be responsible. Covering a smoke detector in order to render it not operational is a serious violation of policy. Also, disciplinary action and criminal action may be taken. Should the student have a legitimate need to discharge an extinguisher, this action must be reported immediately to the Security Office, and no fines will be
assessed. In all cases, should the individual responsible for the tampering come forward, the fine will be reduced to the cost of replacement or $30, whichever is greater, as well as possible disciplinary and criminal action. In addition to this, there will be two inspections of smoke detectors per year. If a smoke detector is not in place a replacement detector will be installed and the student charged the cost of the detector and labor at time and one half rates. Minimum charge for basic detector replaced is $30.

**On Campus Behavior**

A Beloit College student is expected to conduct herself/himself with due regard for the rights and sensibilities of other members of the College community. A student may not behave in a manner that denies or interferes with another member’s expression of convictions, right to academic freedom, or the performance of the duties or functions of others.

**Prohibited Behavior**

The following acts are strictly prohibited. Their commission will result in immediate investigation by the Associate Dean of Students/Director of Residential Life or designated representative and disciplinary action, if warranted. Individuals violating these student regulations and policies may face disciplinary action such as, but not limited to probation, suspension, or expulsion (see Judicial System):

1. Violence of any type, including behavior that is harmful to oneself or is harmful to another member of the college community.
2. Assault, which includes forced or coerced sexual contact; or the threat thereof against any member or guest of the College. (See also Sexual Assault/Misconduct Policy).
3. Sexual, personal, physical, emotional or psychological harassment, or the threat thereof, including hazing, against any member or guest of the College. (Harassment Policy).
4. Phone harassment which includes prank calls, threatening, obscene or otherwise harassing use of the phone.
5. Theft of or deliberate damage to College property or the property of any member or guest of the College. Items belonging to others that are found in a student’s possession may be confiscated.
6. Disorderly conduct which includes behavior that fails to treat other members of the community with courtesy or respect for their rights and needs, or failure to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in all aspects of their lives.
7. Lewd, indecent or obscene conduct.
8. Possession and/or use of dangerous weapons which include, but are not limited to firearms, pellet and BB guns, ammunition, knives, chemicals, explosives, fireworks, laser pointers, swords, paintball guns (without approval) and other objects or substances used as a weapon or in a dangerous manner.
9. Illegal possession and/or use and sale of any form of narcotics, barbiturate drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, marijuana, cocaine, date rape drugs such as Rohypnol (Roofies), GHB, or Ketamine and other dangerous drugs classified as illegal by local, state, or federal statutes (Drug Policy).

10. Failure to comply with federal or state law, county or city ordinances, including but not limited to those governing alcoholic beverages and drugs (Alcohol Policy).

11. Intentional misuse of fire alarms or other safety equipment. (Residence Hall Policies).

12. Unauthorized entry or use of campus equipment or facilities and possession of and/or use of unauthorized keys/key cards.

13. Knowingly giving entry to campus buildings or rooms to unauthorized persons.

14. Furnishing false information, or furnishing false academic or co-curricular credentials; intentionally making a false report of an emergency; forging, altering, misusing, or transferring to another person College identification, records, or documents. Acts of personal dishonesty – knowingly lying, cheating, non-academic acts of plagiarism, providing false or misleading information.

15. Violation of housing contract regulations and agreement; failure to abide by the conditions of the Residence Hall application and agreements.

16. Failure to identify oneself properly, or to comply with the directions of a member of the College faculty or staff, particularly Residence Life and Security Staff or support staff requesting an appointment, acting in the performance of their duties (Security Policy).

17. Failure to comply with official academic or disciplinary sanctions.

18. Beloit College does not permit the unauthorized use of the College seal or logos, or official reference to the College, or the use of the College name in a manner that might imply official approval, authorization, or sponsorship of an activity or publication. This prohibition extends to references to Beloit College students or a Beloit College organization, whether officially recognized or not. Exceptions to this policy require written authorization from the Secretary of the Corporation. This policy includes, but is not limited to, public performances or statements, electronically distributed statements, printed matter, Internet Web pages, souvenirs, or merchandise.


20. Intentional misuse and/or abuse of College Regulations, Policies and Judicial System.

21. Repeated violations of the above regulations and policies will be considered when disciplinary action is taken, and may lead to more serious penalties. Collusion in disobeying any of the College’s Regulations and Policies will be treated as the commission of the act.

Note: Potential complainants are reminded that the College’s ability to effectively consider complaints can be impaired or negated by the passage of time.
Guest Policy

Any guest(s) of a Beloit College student must have a guest pass while on the College campus or attending College events. Guest passes are available from the Campus Security Office on the lower level of Pearsons Hall. College administration and the Security Office reserve the right to refuse or revoke a guest pass without prior notice.

Violators of the Guest Pass Policy are subject to prosecution for trespassing. Please be sure to follow the guidelines listed below.

1. Guests are expected to stay with their host.
2. Hosts are responsible for the conduct and behavior of their guest(s).
3. The sponsoring student must personally know his/her guest(s) and will be responsible for their guest’s conduct, including adherence to student regulations and consideration for the rights of others.
4. Guests must have their passes with them at all time and are required to present them on request.
5. **Students are limited to two guests at one time.**
6. **Passes are valid for a period of three days.** If further visitation is desired, Security may renew the pass for a maximum of three more days. Any extension beyond those three days must be approved by the Office of Residential Life.
7. Guest passes ARE NOT required for families of enrolled students during a daytime visit. Guest passes ARE required for families of enrolled students if they stay overnight on campus.
8. Graduates of Beloit College may be issued a guest pass upon request without a sponsor.
9. Guest passes will not be issued to anyone under the age of 18, unless he/she is a younger sibling of an enrolled student.
10. Former students who withdrew in good standing may be issued a guest pass with a sponsor.
11. If there is an admission fee to an event for non-students, the guest will be expected to pay such a fee.
12. Guests must park on city streets, and must observe alternate side parking. Guests may park in campus parking lots with permission from security.

Drug Policy

Beloit College does not condone the illegal possession, use, provision or sale of illicit drugs including, but not limited to, alcohol, cannabis (marijuana, hashish), hallucinogens, LSD compounds, mescaline, psilocybin mushrooms, DMT, stimulants, amphetamines, cocaine, depressants, methaqualone, barbiturates, inhalants, methamphetamine, ecstasy, narcotics, opiates, Club Drugs, so called “date rape drugs” such as Rohypnol (Roofies), GHB, or Ketamine, heroin, prescription tranquilizers, steroids and other compounds, which are illegal except when taken under a doctor’s
prescription. Prescription drugs may not be sold or provided to others. The sale or transfer of look-a-like drugs is also a violation of College policy.

The College will respond to reported or observed violations with counseling and/or disciplinary action. Violations of the College’s Drug Policy is considered a very serious matter which may result in expulsion, suspension and/or the turning of evidence over to local authorities for criminal prosecution.

Students who may be having difficulty with alcohol or drugs are encouraged to seek appropriate counseling. The College counselor(s) and Student Affairs staff members are available for such assistance. Conferences with these people are privileged, subject to the ethical standards for counselors and the privacy rules established by the Buckley Amendment and HIPPA (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act).

The following regulations shall be enforced and are applicable regardless of the status of violations in the courts:

1. Sale or resale to others, or provision for others of any illicit drug including cannabis (marijuana, hashish) is considered a serious violation of college policy and will result in suspension or expulsion from the college.
2. Involvement in the illegal possession, use or sharing of any illicit drug, including cannabis (marijuana, hashish) or misconduct resulting therefrom is an offense that is subject to disciplinary penalties ranging from warning/counseling to suspension or expulsion.
3. So called “Date Rape Drugs” or drugs intended for or used to incapacitate others (often for the purpose of sexual assault), e.g. Rohypnol (Roofies), GHB, or Ketamine are strictly prohibited by Beloit College. Possession or use will result in suspension or expulsion and the involvement of appropriate law enforcement authorities.
4. Possession of ingredients (in sufficient quantity) to manufacture drugs is strictly prohibited by Beloit College.
5. Possession of drug paraphernalia (for example hookahs, non-tobacco pipes) is a violation of city ordinance and College policy. Drug paraphernalia is not allowed on campus and if viewed by staff or security it will be confiscated and not returned.

**DRUGS ON CAMPUS**

Beloit College is a private, coeducational, residential institution of higher education committed to providing a sound liberal arts education that promotes life-long learning and personal growth. The College is committed to maintaining an environment of learning, living and working which is free of illicit drugs and the unlawful use or abuse of alcohol. The unlawful possession, use, distribution, manufacture of, or dispensing of alcohol and illicit drugs by students or employees on College property or as part of college activities is prohibited. Individuals who violate College policies or local, state or
federal laws concerning the unlawful possession, use, distribution, manufacture, or dispensing of alcohol and illicit drugs are subject to arrest and/or disciplinary action which may result in sanctions up to and including required treatment and/or expulsion from the college.

**ALCOHOL POLICY**

The Wisconsin drinking age is 21 years of age. Beloit College, its students, faculty and staff are subject to all laws of the State of Wisconsin regarding possession, consumption, sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages. All students are required to show proof of age when purchasing, or accepting alcoholic beverages on campus. Students who fail to provide this information, use false information violate the law and/or College policy is liable for disciplinary action.

As an educational institution Beloit College does not promote the use of alcohol nor condone the misuse of alcohol. As adults, students are encouraged to make an informed, responsible decision regarding their use or nonuse of alcohol. All community members are expected to respect the rights of those individuals who choose not to use alcoholic beverages. The Philosophy section listed below is philosophy, not policy.

**THE LAW**

The Wisconsin state law concerning alcoholic beverages is applicable on-and-off the campus. Key highlights from this law are listed below. A complete copy of the state policy may be obtained from the Dean of Students office.

1. Summary of key Wisconsin statutes regarding alcohol beverages restrictions:
   a. No person may procure for, sell, dispense or give away any alcohol beverages to any underage person not accompanied by his or her parent, guardian or spouse who has attained the legal drinking age.
   b. No person may procure for, sell, dispense or give away alcoholic beverages to a person who is intoxicated.
   c. No person shall consume or carry about an open container of alcoholic beverages on any public street, highway, alley or sidewalk.
2. Any underage person who does any of the following is guilty of a violation:
   a. Procures or attempts to procure alcohol beverages from a licensee or permittee.
   b. Falsely represents his or her age for the purpose of receiving alcohol beverages from a licensee or permittee.
3. Offenses related to age and alcohol in Wisconsin.
REGULATIONS (aka the Bottom Line)

Beloit College complies with the state laws regarding the use of alcohol and the regulations of drinking and driving.

1. Alcoholic beverages should never be used as the primary focus of any activity. Drinking games and other activities that have alcohol as a focal point violate the college policy. Kegs and other common sources of alcohol are considered to be, or become, the focus of the events at which they can be found; consequently, they are inconsistent with the college policy, and as such, are not permitted at any time.

2. Intoxication does not absolve the drinker of the responsibility of his/her actions.

3. Public drunkenness, as well as violent, inappropriate or other kinds of offensive behavior caused by alcohol consumption violates the college policy.

4. Members of the campus community are not permitted to pressure other students to drink; pressure means direct and nonverbal pressure to consume alcohol.

5. Drinking hard liquor directly from the bottle is an example of irresponsible drinking and is prohibited.

6. Mixing alcohol with energy drinks is dangerous and does not constitute responsible drinking.

7. Students are not allowed to consume or be under the influence of alcohol in academic buildings.

8. Severe intoxication is a serious offense to the college community and will be treated accordingly.