Westminster College McNair Scholars Program
Fall 2018 Highlights

Now in our 16th year of services, we are proud to highlight the achievements of our scholars:

**Congratulations 2017 - 2018 graduates!** From Westminster College: Elizabeth Garcia, Catherine Konold, Jamil McPherson, Julie Schaufler, Mariela Vazquez Gordo, Deanna Waldron. From the University of Utah: Andrea Cancino Sáenz, Chaise Edebiri, Danielle Martinez, Yajaira Peralta, Brisa Sanchez Zavala, Glory Stanton.

We also extend our congratulations to the six new grads who entered graduate school in fall 2018. The degrees they seek, departments, and institutions are:

- **Liz Garcia:** PhD in Counseling Psychology at the University of Northern Colorado
- **Mariela Vazquez Gordo:** MS in Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona
- **Deanna Waldron:** MACL (community leadership) at Westminster College
- **Andrea Cancino Sáenz:** PhD in Political Science at the University of Washington
- **Chaise Edebiri:** M.Ed. in Educational Policy, Organization and Leadership at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **Danielle Martinez:** M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Utah
- **Brisa Sanchez Zavala:** MA in Anthropology at Washington State University

Additionally, **Jacie Wach Slaymaker (Westminster 2017)** has started her MPH in Health Policy and Management at the University of Hawaii.

72% (107/148) of our graduates have attained an advanced degree and/or are currently in graduate programs.

**Congratulations! to those who earned graduate degrees in the 2017 - 2018 academic year:**

- **Guadalupe Aguilera (U of U 2013)** received her MS in Statistics in December 2017, and continues in the PhD program in sociology at the University of Utah.
- **Brianda DeLeon (U of U 2016)** received her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Utah, and is now pursuing a PhD at the University of Texas, San Antonio.
- **Peter Dien (U of U Dec. 2010)** has earned his master’s in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Uppsala (Sweden). Peter was a Rotary Peace Fellow.
- **Kevin Martinez (Westminster 2016)** received his M.Ed. in Education, Culture, and Society from the University of Utah.
- **Lisa Molina (Westminster 2016)** received her M.Ed. in Education, Culture, and Society from the University of Utah.
- **Willy Palomo (Westminster 2015)** completed both his MFA in poetry and MA in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Indiana University.
- **Debbie Samaniego (Westminster 2017)**, a 2017 Marshall Scholar, completed her master’s in International Relations at Queen Mary University of London; she will now pursue a DPhil in Migration Studies at the University of Sussex.
- **Giulia Soto (U of U 2016)** earned her M.S.Ed. in International Educational Development from the University of Pennsylvania.
- **Tashelle Wright (Westminster 2016)** earned her MS in Public Health and continues in the doctoral program at University of California, Merced.

**Congratulations! to graduates for the following accomplishments:**

- **Elizabeth Gamarra (U of U 2016)** is currently a Rotary Peace Fellow. She will earn a Master of Peace Studies at International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan.
- **Willy Palomo’s** thesis manuscript was accepted for publication by Black Lawrence Press and should be out by early 2020.
Three of our graduates earned tenure at their institutions in 2017-2018. Congratulations!

Angela Andrade is Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. James Moreno is Associate Professor of Dance at the University of Kansas. Sarah Janel Jackson is Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Northeastern University. Sarah is on sabbatical for 2018-2019 and has received two distinctive honors. She is a Fall 2018 fellow in the Harvard Kennedy School Shorenstein Center for Media, Politics and Public Policy and a 2019 New America National Fellow. Congratulations, Sarah!

McNair Scholars answer: What have you gained from the McNair program?

"My life was totally changed by this program. My family’s lives have been changed. I have gained access to a career path I didn’t know existed."
"Support, knowledge, confidence. Without McNair I would not be going to grad school."
"They constantly reminded me that I deserve to be here, and gave me the tools to move forward."
"The resources, workshops, and knowledge McNair has provided me are invaluable. I know that without the program I would not be attending graduate school."
"Incredible opportunities, preparation for success in graduate school, lifelong friends, support, a family away from home, confidence, guidance, and wonderful memories. McNair services always exceeded my imagination."
"The McNair program completely changed my undergraduate experience. Before, I doubted myself a lot and kept to my comfort zone. Since my McNair summer, I have gotten more involved not only academically, but in my community as well. McNair helped me understand myself and what I want to accomplish."
"Before McNair, I had no idea what I needed to do to apply to grad school. This program not only taught me how to go through the steps to apply, but was with me throughout the journey making sure I would succeed."

Our success is only possible with the support of faculty research mentors and instructors, workshop presenters, and staff across many departments at Westminster College, Salt Lake Community College, and the College of Southern Idaho. We are honored to continue serving our amazing students, and enormously grateful for the broad and deep support we receive from the administration, faculty, and staff of Westminster College.

Thank you

2018 Westminster McNair Scholars
Summer Research Cohort
Westminster McNair Symposium

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