Would you like to be a Faculty Mentor for a McNair Scholar this summer? Please send a one or two page description of your proposed project. Please include a description of the role students will play in the project. In addition, include a separate request for research supplies and other expenses, if applicable. The project description will be circulated among the McNair Scholars, and, if any are interested in working on your project, they will contact you directly. Please note the amount of funding for research supplies will be granted based on the number of requests received, the number of students working on each project, and available funds. **We need research project proposals by Friday, March 21, 2014.** Please send proposals via e-mail to the McNair Scholars Project Assistant, H. Beckford, Jr (beckfordjr@binghamton.edu).

**BACKGROUND**

The McNair Scholars Program is designed to help low-income, first-generation college, and historically underrepresented minority students prepare for graduate school and future careers as professors and researchers. The focus of the program is to assist students who wish to pursue PhDs. Assistance in preparing for the GRE and with the graduate school admission process is available. Periodically, we arrange visits to graduate schools and support student research presentations at undergraduate and professional research conferences. These students benefit from the use of the McNair research facility, which is equipped with computers, printers, and software. In addition, we encourage them to become research assistants and teaching assistants for undergraduate courses at Binghamton University.

We choose 18 students to act as research assistants for the summer program. Each student selected receives a stipend of $2,400. Most students will work one-on-one with their faculty mentors. Ideally, the project you propose would go from inception through data collection to completion during the eight-week summer program, however projects already in progress or that will continue beyond the summer are also welcome. McNair interns are expected to work 30 hours per week. Each faculty member may work with no more than four McNair Scholars. Judging from previous experiences, research groups of 2-3 students work best.

Student contributions to the final products of these research projects should be acknowledged in a meaningful way, such as co-authorship of a conference paper or a publication. We also expect the students to write their own research paper or to prepare a poster based on their summer research internship, which they can present at one or more undergraduate research conferences.

**RESEARCH FUNDS**

We do have available for the participating faculty members an allowance for research supplies, if needed. A list of detailed expenses must be provided when you submit your research description, and must be approved by the McNair Director prior to purchases. Faculty mentors will not receive a stipend.
McNair Summer Faculty Mentor
Responsibilities & Expectations

1. Supervise the completion of proposed research project **throughout the eight-week** internship program. Students should be fully integrated into the research team included in discussion dialogue about research design and other related issues **not limited to data collection**.

2. Be available on campus at least **10 hours per week to supervise interns.** Some day-to-day supervision of McNair Interns could be delegated to one or more well qualified graduate students.

3. Ascertain whether interns are working 30 hours per week and assess student progress throughout the summer. Complete intern **evaluation forms at the end of each week and at the end of the program**.

4. **Supporting the McNair Program’s mission** by encouraging McNair Interns to pursue graduate study towards the completion of a doctorate. Talk to them about the obvious and not so obvious benefits of earning a PhD. Share your own experiences if you like. At least one meeting - with or without - graduate students would complete this responsibility.

5. Read student’s final research paper, PowerPoint presentation, or poster and **indicate its acceptability by signing each product**.

6. Notify McNair Program staff if there is a problem with an intern. Students know they should work hard on a project and maintain a work schedule of 30 hours per week.

If you would like more information about the summer program, please feel free to contact the Assistant Director, Shanise N. Kent (skent@binghamton.edu) or Director, David Cingranelli (davidc@binghamton.edu).

Sincerely,

David Cingranelli,
Project Director

Shanise N. Kent,
Project Associate Director

H. Beckford, Jr.
Project Assistant