Greetings,

On behalf of the McNair Scholars Program at Saint Louis University, I am honored to present the first volume of our *SLU McNair Research Journal*, a culmination of our 2018 Summer Research Internship Program. During the eight weeks of the internship, 12 of our scholars conducted faculty-supervised research projects, which they had an opportunity to present at our inaugural McNair Research Symposium at SLU. Subsequently, several of them have gone on to present their summer research at other forums, including:

- The Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Meeting in Detroit, MI
- The McNair Heartland Research Conference in Kansas City, MO
- The Minority Access' National Role Models Conference in Washington, DC
- The Tyson Research Center Symposium in Eureka, MO
- The University of New Mexico McNair Research Conference in Albuquerque, NM

We are extremely thankful to the faculty mentors who have dedicated their time, leadership and support to our McNair Scholars, as well as to the members of our 2017-2018 McNair Advisory Board, who gave talks, facilitated workshops and provided general support to our program. We could not have achieved the level of success experienced during the first year of the McNair Scholars Program at SLU without the collaborative efforts of everyone involved.

Special thanks to the two outstanding graduate assistants who worked together on this volume – McNair GA, Sunita Manu and TRIO-Student Support Services Writing Fellow, Darrin DeChane. Their impressive talents, skillsets and teamwork have played a paramount role in the success of this project. Thanks also to McNair Academic Coordinator, Anthony Gills, who offered guidance and support to the Scholars throughout the summer internship and continues to be an integral part of their educational and professional development. Last but by no means least, thank you to Will Perkins, Director of Pre-College, Access and TRIO Programs, whose vision and leadership paved the way for Saint Louis University to receive the McNair grant in 2018. His confidence in the abilities of the McNair staff and scholars and ongoing support of the program have been invaluable.

Sincerely,

Jamie D. Motley, Ph.D.
McNair Scholars Program Director
Dr. Rhonda BeLue, Professor and Chair, Health Management & Policy
Dr. Keon L. Gilbert, Associate Professor, Behavioral Science & Health Education
Dr. Richard Harvey, Associate Professor, Psychology
Dr. Amber Johnson, Associate Professor, Communication
Dr. Ness Sandoval, Associate Professor, Sociology & Anthropology
Dr. Karla D. Scott, Professor, Communication
Dr. Jonathan C. Smith, Vice President, Diversity and Community Engagement
Dr. Robert M. Wood, Associate Provost
LIST OF 2018 MCNAIR SCHOLARS

- Wesley Agee
- Ciarra Anders
- Brian Barley
- Zenae Cherry
- Esther Chinwuko
- Hope Conyers
- Janee Davis
- DelShawn Fowler
- Maria Gracia
- Kyron Holloway
- Brandon Hughes
- Jean Richard Kraka
- Sequoyah Lopez
- Derek R. McFarland
- Ismahan Mohamed
- Taylor Robinson
- Yesenia Sanchez
- Ricardo Saucedo
- Wendy Teal
- Jazmine Terrazas
- Brendan Underwood
- Carissa Villanueva
- Ngohile Yakubu
- Liza Sivriver
MCNAIR STAFF

Jamie D. Motley, Ph.D.
(Program Director)

Dr. Jamie D. Motley first began working in TRIO as a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she earned her Master’s Degree in Higher Education Administration and Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies. She has held leadership positions at multiple colleges and universities in Illinois, Georgia, Alabama and Missouri. Dr. Motley began her tenure at Saint Louis University in 2014 as a member of the TRIO Student Support Services staff and was promoted to McNair Scholars Program Director in the fall of 2017. In addition to her graduate degrees, she holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism from Western Illinois University.

Anthony Gills, MSW
(Academic Coordinator)

Anthony Gills joined the McNair Scholars Program staff in November of 2017. Prior to that, he was a Relationship Manager, Post-Secondary Prep at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri. He was also a practicum student with TRIO Student Support Services, as well as the TRIO Educational Talent Search Program at Saint Louis University. Anthony has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Criminal Justice from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and a Master of Social Work from Saint Louis University. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration. As the academic coordinator for McNair, Anthony provides academic and personal support to McNair Scholars, assisting with program-related projects and activities, coordinating workshops and monitoring each Scholar’s participation and success in the program.

Sunita Manu
(Graduate Assistant)

Sunita Manu became part of the McNair Scholars Program in September of 2018. She is a second-year graduate student at St. Louis University College for Public Health and Social Justice. Her MPH focus is in global health and epidemiology. Prior to McNair, Sunita was an assistant with L’Arche St. Louis where she worked with individual with intellectual disability. Sunita also worked as a student research assistant. As the graduate assistant for the McNair Scholars program, Sunita provides academic and personal support, assist scholars with completing their college application, and help with event planning.
Zarek Burton is a senior majoring in Biology at Saint Louis University. He is from St. Louis, MO. He conducted his summer research under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Lynda Morrison, Professor of Molecular Microbiology & Immunology at SLU.

DelShawn D. Fowler was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He is a junior at Harris-Stowe State University and is majoring in Biology. His McNair Faculty Mentor is Dr. Jon Fisher, Professor of Biology at SLU.
Brandon T.M Hughes is a junior at Saint Louis University, majoring in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and minoring in African American Studies. He also has an interest in International Business. His McNair Faculty Mentor is Dr. Richard D. Harvey, Associate Professor of Psychology at SLU.

Maria Garcia is a senior year at Saint Louis University. She hails from San Francisco, CA and is double majoring in Health Management and Sociology with a minor in Urban Poverty Studies. Her current research interest involves exploring how bicultural individuals’ ethnic identity is characterized and experienced by first and second-generation immigrant Americans adolescents. Maria’s McNair Faculty Mentor is Dr. Ajlina Karamet-Muratovic, Assistant Professor of Sociology & Anthropology at SLU.

Brandon T.M Hughes is a junior at Saint Louis University, majoring in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and minoring in African American Studies. He also has an interest in International Business. His McNair Faculty Mentor is Dr. Richard D. Harvey, Associate Professor of Psychology at SLU.
Derek R. McFarland a junior from East St. Louis. He attends Harris-Stowe State University, where he is majoring in Biology. His McNair Faculty Mentor is Dr. Leticia De Souza Soares, Assistant Professor of Biology at SLU. Derek was the recipient of a fellowship from Washington University’s Tyson Research Center where he has been co-mentored by Dr. Solny Adalsteinsson.

Taylor Robinson a senior at Saint Louis University. She is pursuing a double major in Public Health and African American Studies, and her McNair Faculty Mentor is Dr. Keon Gilbert, Associate Professor of Behavioral Science & Health Education at SLU. Taylor’s research interests include critical race theory, health disparities, health and social inequities, and the intersection of race and health outcomes.
Yesenia Sanchez is a senior at Saint Louis University, majoring in French and International Studies with minors in Political Science and Women and Gender Studies. Her research interests include forced migration, ethnic origins, and identities. She has previously presented her work at the Heartland Research Conference in Kansas City, Missouri and at a workshop titled "Conversation sur l'Immigration" at Saint Louis University. Her McNair Faculty Mentor is Dr. Annie Smart, Professor of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures at SLU.

Ricardo Saucedo is a senior majoring in Computer Science at Saint Louis University and hails from Aurora, Illinois. Under the supervision of Dr. Kevin Scannell, Professor of Computer Science. Ricardo has been conducting research on biases that exist in algorithms and models used against minority-races and queer users online.
Wendy Teal is a senior at Saint Louis University, majoring in Neuroscience. She was born and raised in Saint Louis, Missouri. Her McNair Faculty Mentor is Dr. Alaina Baker-Nigh, Assistant Professor of Biology.

Devonn Thomas is a junior at Saint Louis University, where she majors in African-American Studies. She completed her summer research under the supervision of Brendan Roediger, J.D., Associate Professor at Saint Louis University’s School of Law.
Carissa Villanueva is from Des Moines, Iowa and is a junior at Saint Louis University. She is double majoring in Mathematics and Anthropology and plans to pursue graduate study in Biostatistics upon completing her undergraduate degree programs. Her McNair Faculty Mentor is Dr. Mary R. Vermilion, Associate Professor in SLU’s Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Forensic Science.

Ngohile Yakubu was born in Nigeria, West Africa but is a native of St. Louis. She is a senior in the Doisy College of Health Sciences at Saint Louis University and is majoring in Health Information Management. Her McNair Faculty Mentor is Dr. Dannielle Davis, Associate Professor of Leadership and Higher Education at SLU.