

A Note to Readers

It is with great pleasure that the University of Wisconsin-Superior presents our fifth edition of *The McNair Scholars Journal*. These papers are a culmination of research the scholars began in January and completed over the summer of 2004. The papers presented here are representative of the diverse group of students in the program and their current or intended fields of interest.

The McNair Scholars Program began at the University of Wisconsin-Superior in the fall of 1999. The McNair Program was originally established in 1986 by the U.S. Department of Education to prepare low income, first generation college students and students from groups underrepresented in graduate education for study at the doctoral level. There are a total of 179 programs nationwide with six programs housed within the UW System.

We would like to thank the scholars for their hard work and dedication to the program. We are proud of the students' work contained in this journal and support them wholeheartedly in their future educational and career pursuits. We would also like to thank our mentors for providing students with guidance, direction, and support in their respective projects. A special thank you also goes out to Sonja Olsen and Gretchen Walkup for their commitment and dedication to the McNair Program over the years.

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