Dear DePaul Student,

We invite you to apply to the *Arnold Mitchem Fellowship/McNair Scholars Program* at DePaul University.

The Arnold Mitchem Fellowship, named after Arnold L. Mitchem, PhD, is a DePaul-funded initiative to prepare students from underrepresented groups for the McNair Scholars Program. The McNair Scholars Program, named after the late Ronald E. McNair, PhD, is a federal TRiO Program designed to prepare carefully selected undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds who possess an excellent academic record and are committed to graduate study through the attainment of a doctorate, and who demonstrate a strong interest in joining the nation’s professoriate. All services offered by the McNair Scholars Program and Arnold Mitchem Fellowship are **free** of charge to its participants.

If you are interested in graduate school and would like to apply to the Arnold Mitchem Fellowship or the McNair Scholars Program, I encourage you to review About Scholar Benefits, About Eligibility Requirements and About Scholar Responsibilities descriptions listed below, and to attend one of our McNair Open Houses, hosted at the McNair Corner (SAC 166/169 on the Lincoln Park campus) on the dates and times listed below.

The first phase of the application is due on July 31, 2015, at noon. To complete the first phase of the application you’ll need to complete a short online application along with sending over additional application components. The links to applications are listed below:

**McNair Applicants (Juniors and Seniors):** [McNair Scholars Program Application](#)

**Mitchem Applicants (Sophomores):** [Mitchem Fellowship Program Application](#)

**About Arnold L. Mitchem:** Arnold L. Mitchem, Ph.D., has dedicated his career to advocating for equal access to postsecondary education and for the success of students in the United States. He began his career as director of Marquette’s Educational Opportunity Program, and was also a faculty member in the Department of History. He then relocated to Washington, D.C., where he is the president and founder of the Council for Opportunity in Education, a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the expansion of college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities throughout the United States. Much of this work involves establishing, integrating, and supporting TRiO programs at various levels of education.

**About Ronald E. McNair:** Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D., was the second African American to fly into space. He earned a BS degree in physics from North Carolina A & T State University in 1971 and a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976. McNair was one of 35 applicants selected from a pool of ten thousand admitted in NASA’s Space Shuttle Program. On January 28, 1986, McNair, along six crewmembers, tragically died while aboard the space shuttle Challenger. Honoring this exemplary life, the United States Congress approved funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program (the official name of the McNair Scholars Program), intended to help disadvantaged students achieve their educational dreams.

The McNair Scholars Program at DePaul University, supported by federal funds and DePaul University funds, is funded to serve 30 students for the 2015 – 2016 academic year.
Spring 2015 Open Houses: the McNair Scholars Program and Arnold Mitchem Fellowship will host Open Houses in SAC 166 on the dates and times listed below. Staff and scholars will be on-hand to answer any questions you have about the program and its benefits. If you cannot attend any of the Open House sessions and would like more information, please contact us at mcnairscholars@depaul.edu or at 773.325.4743.

Spring:
• Open House I: Thursday, May 21, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Summer:
• Open House II: Monday, June 8, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

About Scholar Benefits
Applicants who are selected to join the McNair Scholars Program or Arnold Mitchem Fellowship will be offered the opportunity to:

• Participate in a paid research internship
• Work with a faculty member in their chosen field
• Present their research at a national conference
• Learn about opportunities in graduate studies in their chosen field
• Receive graduate school application assistance and advocacy, including funding opportunities
• Participate in GRE test preparation
• Visit graduate schools and present their research at conferences
• Receive academic counseling and tutoring as needed during their undergraduate careers at DePaul University

About Eligibility Requirements
To be eligible for the McNair Scholars Program and Arnold Mitchem Fellowship, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

• Qualify as either a first-generation college student (neither parent has a bachelor’s degree) whose household meets the low-income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Education; or as a member of a group that is underrepresented in graduate education. The U.S. Department of Education currently defines "underrepresented groups" specifically as Native American, Alaskan Native, Hispanic, and African-American.
• Be a citizen or permanent legal resident of the United States
• Be a first-time degree-seeking undergraduate student at DePaul University in good academic standing
• Hold sophomore or junior status by the time of program enrollment
• Possess and maintain a competitive cumulative grade point average (2.7 STEM fields and 3.0 or above for social sciences and humanities)
• Have a sincere desire to complete a PhD.

About Scholar Responsibilities
As a McNair Scholar or Arnold Mitchem Fellow, you will be required to:

- Maintain a strong commitment to obtaining a PhD
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress during your undergraduate career through the completion of your baccalaureate degree
- Maintain continuous contact with staff
- Attend workshops, seminars, meetings and other events offered by the program through the academic year (including summer sessions)
- Complete the Program Curriculum in a timely manner

Please feel free to contact me or any other staff with any questions. We look forward to receiving your application!

Sincerely,

Luciano Berardi, Ph.D., Director
McNair Scholars Program and Arnold L. Mitchem Fellowship at DePaul University
2320 North Kenmore Avenue, SAC 166, Chicago, IL 60614
lberardi@depaul.edu | 773.325.4743 main | 773.325.4899 office | 773.325.4648 fax