GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program is one of eight federal TRIO Programs funded under the US Department of Education. Through a grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to prepare eligible participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. Participants are from challenging backgrounds and have demonstrated strong academic potential. Institutions work closely with participants as they complete their undergraduate requirements. Institutions encourage participants to enroll in graduate programs and then track their progress through to the successful completion of advanced degrees. The goal is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society. McNair scholars are eligible to receive a standard stipend amount of $2,800 and their faculty mentors may receive a research allowance for working with the student. This amount varies across institutions.

TYPES OF PROJECTS NATIONWIDE
All McNair projects must provide the following activities: opportunities for research or other scholarly activities; summer internships; seminars and other educational activities designed to prepare students for doctoral study; tutoring; academic counseling; and activities designed to assist students participating in the project in securing admission to and financial assistance for enrollment in graduate programs. McNair projects may also provide the following additional activities: education or counseling services designed to improve financial and economic literacy of students; mentoring programs involving faculty members at institutions of higher education or students, or any combination of such persons; and exposure to cultural events and academic programs not usually available to disadvantaged students.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY
Students who qualify for McNair must be enrolled in a degree-granting program at an eligible institution. In all projects, at least two-thirds of the participants must be low-income, potential first-generation college students. The remaining participants may be from groups that are underrepresented in graduate education.

THE MSU McNAIR PROGRAM
Michigan State University (MSU) is one of the original 14 institutions funded in 1989 to implement the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program initiative. The MSU McNair Program is housed in the Office of Supportive Services. MSU McNair operates as a 10-month undergraduate research and graduate school preparation program that supports college juniors and seniors in their pursuit of graduate education. The program begins in January and concludes in November. Thus, McNair scholars participate in the program during Spring, Summer and Fall Semesters. The 10-month program includes an intensive 10-week Summer Research Institute. The program is funded to serve 32 undergraduates each program year. Each McNair scholar works closely with an MSU faculty member who serves as their primary research mentor on a research project of mutual interest to both parties.