MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BOB KUSTRA

Congratulations to all of the 2008 McNair Scholars for your achievements over the past year. In particular, I want to acknowledge the hard work and accomplishments of the senior Scholars whose research is represented in the papers in this publication. The papers contained in this volume represent a remarkable breadth of scholarship and mark the culmination of an extensive research experience for these promising academic talents at Boise State. I also want to recognize and thank all of the faculty mentors who have worked with our McNair Scholars. It is your patience, guidance and encouragement that facilitates the transformation of these students into scholars.

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program honors the memory and achievement of the late Dr. Ronald E. McNair, a physicist and NASA astronaut. Its goal is to encourage undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds to emulate the academic and professional accomplishments of Dr. McNair by facilitating their pursuit of doctoral degrees and academic careers in teaching and research. The research presented here signals the arrival of a new group of rising scholars who will carry their talents, enthusiasm and hard work ahead into graduate programs here and across the country. The research and other experiences you have had as undergraduates and McNair Scholars at Boise State University are your first critical steps on this path. As you graduate and move on, I hope that you will continue to aspire, achieve and pursue your dreams.

Again, congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Bob Kustra
President