



We are very pleased to present our sixth issue of the Boise State *McNair Scholars Research Journal*. This journal introduces a group of scholars from Boise State whose numerous undergraduate accomplishments culminate with its publication. The collective excellence of these eleven articles is a testament to the scholarly habits of each of these scholars and to the support provided by a growing list of faculty mentors. The journal represents the first published piece for many McNair Scholars and is the final component of preparation the program provides to them as undergraduates at Boise State.

The McNair Program at Boise State strives to create meaningful academic experiences that will enable our students to succeed at the next level. The research component for McNair Scholars has two specific goals: First, to engage students in the research enterprise at the undergraduate level, so they develop the analytical and methodological skills, academic sophistication, and confidence that will make them successful students in graduate school. Second, to provide students a unique opportunity to publish their undergraduate research, so the scholars gain an early understanding of the critical role that publishing will play in their academic careers. In this respect, the *McNair Scholars Research Journal* is a key component in the preparation of our scholars for careers in research and teaching.

The research contained here is the culmination of work that for most of these scholars began in August of 2008 with the bulk of the research conducted in the summer of 2009. The scholars worked many hours in seminars with staff, with faculty mentors and each other in order to put together strong research projects. Their impressive achievements are the result of these very important collaborative efforts. Our McNair Scholars' research continues to translate to high levels of success for our program so we find it most fitting that it culminates in recognition of their work through this journal. We are especially proud of how these students have grown as researchers and scholars.

As in the past, we need to extend deep appreciation to Memo Cordova who provides invaluable research guidance to McNair Scholars; to Meredith Grubbs who, besides doing scores of other things, helps us with every aspect of putting our journal together; and to faculty mentors, on whose expertise we deeply rely for all research to come to fruition.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory Martinez".

Gregory Martinez
Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Barnes".

Helen Barnes
Program Coordinator