



MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Summer Research Colloquium

Thursday, July 16, 2026 – City Campus Union

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

McNair Research Presentations

Regency A, B, and C

Regency A

Moderator: Rebecca Howard Valdivia, Social and Cognitive Psychology Ph.D. student

Harley Boutard, Psychology

Characterizing How and Why Sexual and Gender Minority College Students Use Cannabis in a Cannabis-Prohibitive State

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dennis McChargue, Department of Psychology

Aida Burks, Sociology

Childhood BMI and Children's Self-Worth: Does Parental Emotional Support Matter?

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Seulki Kim, Department of Sociology

Justin Hernandez, Psychology

Which Playground Features Do Children Use Most? Examining Children's Use of Natural and Manufactured Playground Features

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anne Schutte, Department of Psychology

Lauren Winn, Psychology, Neuroscience

Identifying Biconditional Occasion Setting Drug Discrimination through Nicotine and Amphetamine Studies

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Scott Barrett, Department of Psychology

Graduate Student Mentor: Kaitlyn Steck, M.A., Department of Psychology



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Regency B

Moderator – Ella Guerra, UNL Counseling Psychology master's student & McNair GA

Isabella Maddox, Plant Biology

Characterizing Soybean Stem Fungal Communities and Their Antagonistic Potential Against Key Pathogens

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dylan Mangel, Department of Plant Pathology

Grant Nielson, Plant Biology

Investigating the Subcellular Localization and Virulence of Puccinia sorghi Effectors in Maize

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Saet-byul Kim, Department of Plant Pathology

Savannah Schutte, Mathematics

Exploring the Fractal Patterns in Pascal's Triangle and the Trinomial Triangle Modulo n

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Walker, Department of Mathematics

Aiden Smith, Mathematics

Oriented 4-Moves: A Computational Investigation

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Brittenham, Department of Mathematics



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Moderator: Hamza Rfissa, UNL Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education Ph.D. candidate

Trace Bilby, Criminology & Criminal Justice

Risk and Resilience in School-Based Delinquency

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Trisha Rhodes, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice

Caitlin Cemer, Forensic Science

*Understanding the Interaction of the Gap Genes Kruppel and Hunchback in the Embryological Development of the Western Corn Rootworm (*Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* Leconte)*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ana Maria Vélez Arango, Department of Entomology

Elizabeth Chhoeung, Forensic Science

Co-Occurrence of Nitrate, Nitrite and Arsenic in Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District Groundwater Wells

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Martha Rhoades, School of Natural Resources