DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT:
McNair Scholars is designed to prepare participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. The goals of the McNair Scholars are to increase graduate degree attainment of students from underrepresented segments of society, as well as increase their representation in the professoriate and academia.

PROGRAM/SERVICE OVERVIEW:
McNair Scholars provides year-round services to prepare participants for acceptance into quality graduate programs of their choice to acquire their Ph.D., primarily in the sciences, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)-related fields. Scholars work closely with the McNair Academic Coordinator and faculty to ensure they have a full research experience, which is the centerpiece of the program. With faculty mentorship and guidance, Scholars develop and complete a research project, which they have the opportunity to publish and present at academic conferences. Scholars research graduate programs to identify a minimum of 9 graduate programs that would be an academic “fit” based on their research interests. The Scholars also have an opportunity to visit graduate schools and meet with faculty. The McNair Summer Institute serves as the foundation of the Scholars’ readiness for a rigorous graduate program. The CSU Fullerton McNair Scholars have the opportunity to develop, mature, and grow academically through the many scholarly preparation activities that are provided by the U.S. Department of Education’s federal funding.

TYPE OF ASSESSMENT:
(To check mark any box below, please double click on the square and select “checked”.)
- External Reports
- Needs Assessment
- Program Evaluation
- Student Learning Outcomes
- Student Satisfaction Assessment
- Student Success
- Utilization Data

PROJECT SAMPLE:
Number of students in your sample- The sample size varies on the objective. Objective 1 includes 25 McNair participants, Objective 2 measures the new participants—in 2012-13 there were 14 new participants, Objective 3 includes 10 McNair Scholars who graduated from CSUF in 2012, Objective 4 and the graph includes 194 McNair Alumni.

DATA COLLECTION TIMEFRAME:
October 2012 through September 2013.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS:
US Department of Education Annual Performance Report

LIMITATIONS:
Budget:
Level funded for 7 years ($225K)
$5,000 cut for 2012-2013 ($220K)
An additional 5.2% cut for the 2013-2014 budget which consisted of a $16,506 cut to the McNair Scholars budget.
The Department of Education is proposing to reinstate the 5.2% cut in the 2014-2015 budget, we are awaiting the final decision.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS:

The McNair objectives set by the United States Department of Education are the standards by which we measure our success:

1. 100% of McNair participants will complete research and scholarly activities that will directly and positively impact their educational progression each McNair academic year.
   - Accomplished: 100% of McNair participants completed research and scholarly activities.

2. 90% of new participants served in each McNair academic year will attain a baccalaureate degree within three (3) years.
   - Exceeded Objective: 100% of new participants attained a baccalaureate degree in three years.

3. 80% of bachelor's degree recipients will enroll in post baccalaureate programs by the fall term of the academic year immediately following completion of that degree.
   - Met Objective: 80% of those who graduated in 2012 enrolled in a post baccalaureate program the next fall.

4. 65% of McNair participants will attain a doctoral degree within ten (10) years of the attainment of their bachelor’s degree.
   - In progress.

KEY FINDINGS:

- The McNair Summer Institute provides Scholars with the foundation to successfully understand and complete their research project within the allotted time stipulated by the grant.
- Because of the close working relationship between the McNair staff, faculty and Scholars, students obtain their baccalaureate degree within the designated three-year time limitation.
- Scholars identify 9-12 graduate programs that are a “fit” based on research interests. Because of their stellar academic record, 90% of the Scholars are successful in gaining admission into an accredited graduate program.
- Because of the myriad of challenges faced by first-generation, low-income students, the 65% attainment goal was overly ambitious based on the data presented for this population nationwide, which indicates that 7% obtain their Ph.D. Because of the academic and personal obstacles they faced in their Ph.D. programs, some students chose to stop out prior to the ten-year window designated by the grant.
APPLICATIONS OF FINDINGS:

1. **How will you use your data to improve or enhance your program/service?**
   We are seeking to enhance the successes of individuals who complete doctoral programs by focusing more on the academic skills that are necessary for the Scholars confidently enter, excel, and complete doctoral programs. During the summer, continuing Scholars are provided research opportunities at Research-intensive universities to further enhance their readiness for graduate studies. A more deliberate focus is also placed on engaging the parents/other family members to assist them in understanding their role in supporting the Scholar in their graduate programs. We have identified faculty and staff with significant and relevant technical skills to assist in the overall development of our Summer Institute. Development of these necessary skills will give the Scholars the confidence they need to matriculate through their program. During the Summer McNair Institute workshops are provided for the Ph.D. applicants and a timeline is provided for the overall application process.

2. **How did the data compare to data from prior years, if applicable?**
   Over the 13 years, we have been consistent in meeting or exceeding the objectives stated in the U.S. Department of Education’s grant requirements.

3. **Any additional information you would like to share that demonstrates how the assessment data will inform programmatic and/or management decisions.**
   Because of budget constraints, we are consistently looking at collaborative ways to leverage our funding and resources with other like academic services. Looking at the new CSUF Strategic Plan, we have focused on a professional communication and collaboration with current graduate students and faculty through the Summer Institute workshops.