

# Building a Strong Relationship with the Graduate School at Your Institution

McNair Promising Practices Institute  
February 1, 2019  
Orlando, FL

**Samesha Barnes, Ph.D.**

Director & Lecturer, McNair Scholars Program

**Tyisha Hathorn, Ph.D.**

Director, Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives

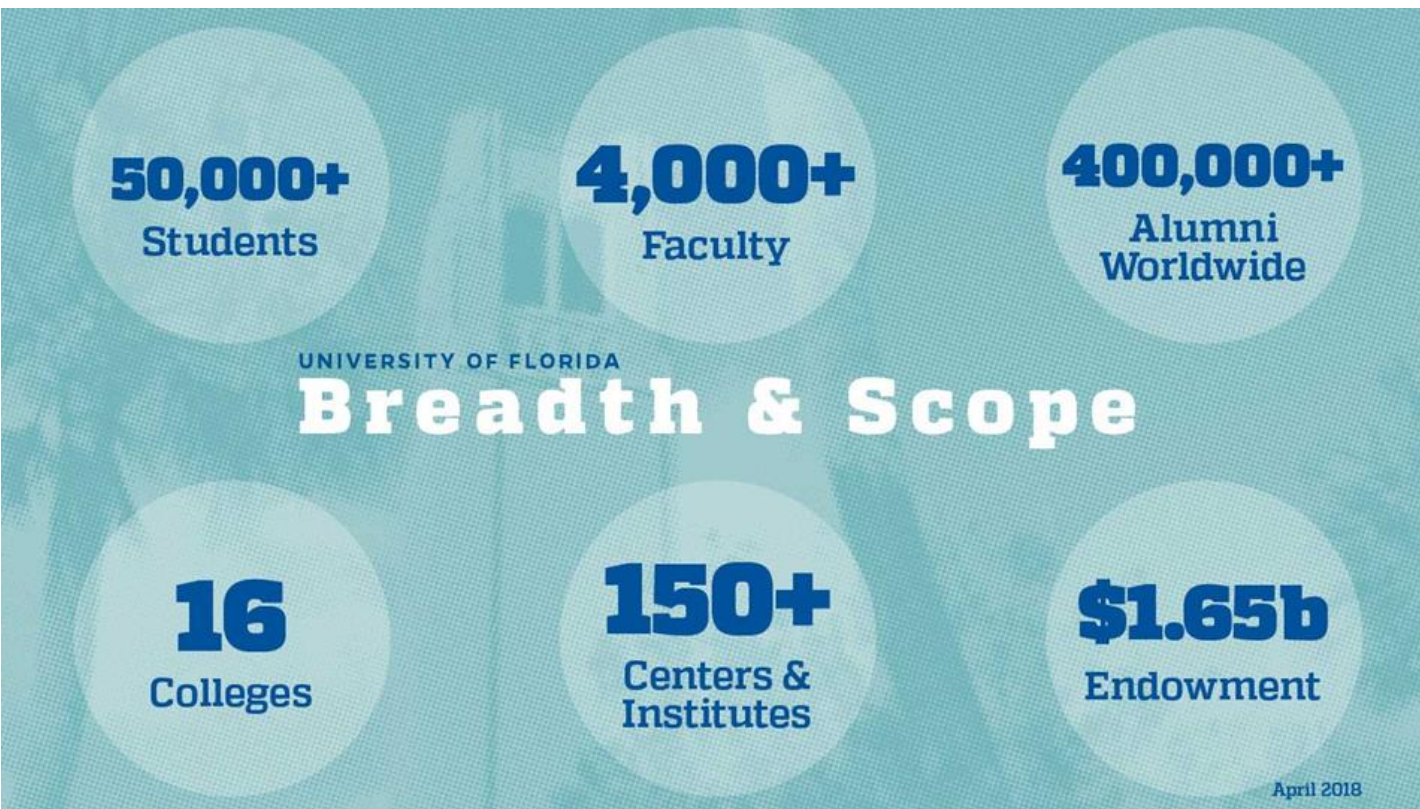
# Presentation Outline:

- Overview of UF
- Graduate School
- McNair Program
- Laying the Foundation
- Our Partnership
- Takeaways



# Who Are We?

UF

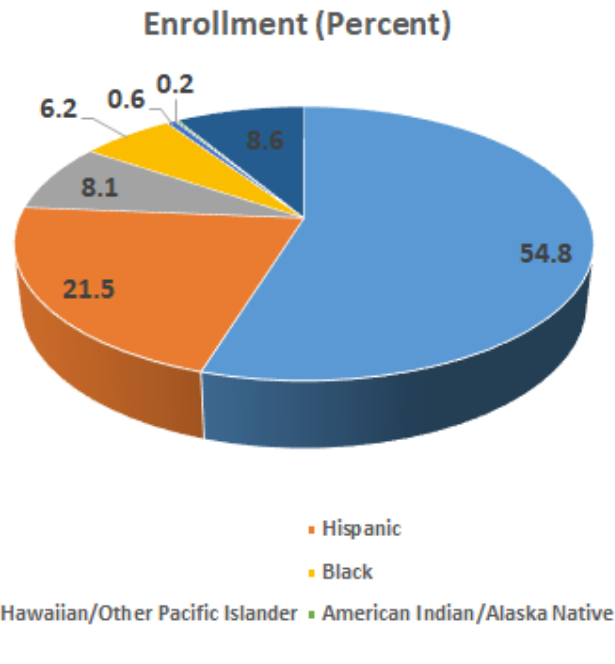


# Undergraduate Enrollment

33,697 (fall 2017)

22%  
First-  
Generation

10,837  
Pell Grant  
Recipients



\*Two or more races, nonresident alien, unknown

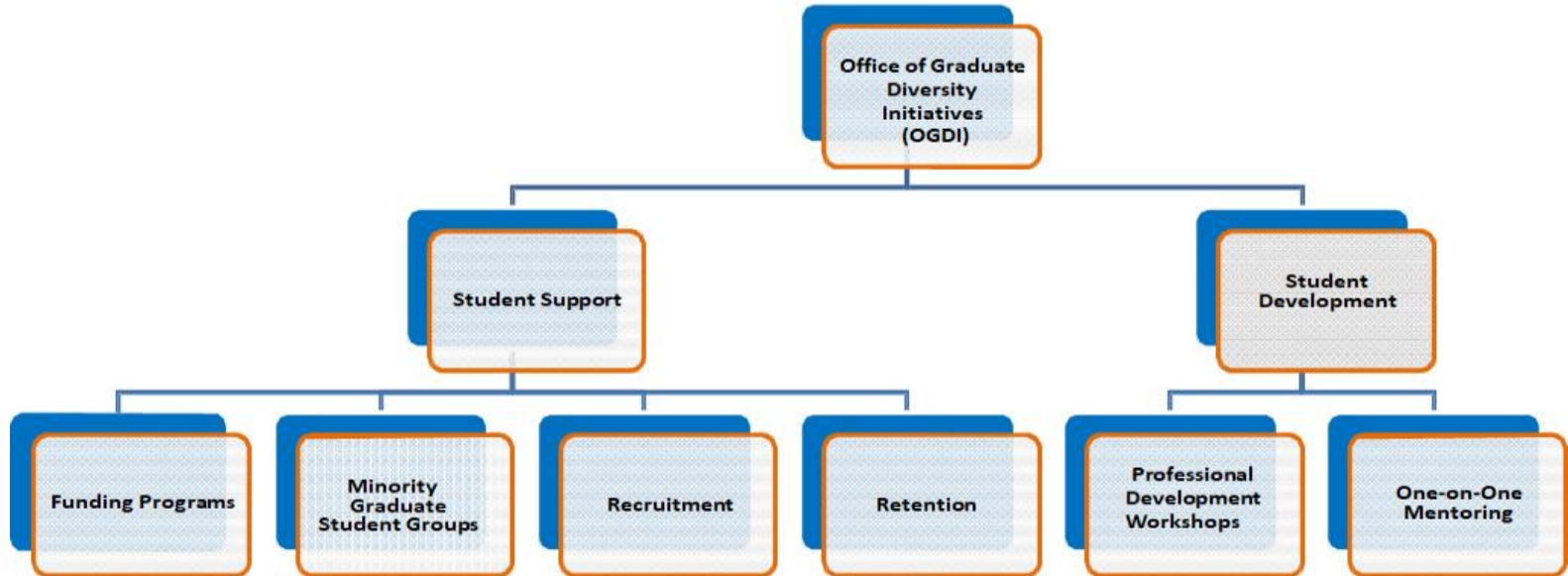


# The Graduate School



- Became a unit in 2007
- Operates on a **decentralized model**
- Serves **12,000 graduate students** pursuing master's, specialist, and doctoral degrees in more than **150 fields of study**
- Responsible for oversight of graduate education university-wide, and standards & policies governing all graduate programs

# Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives



# MCNAIR DOCTORAL ASSISTANTSHIP PROGRAM

FALL 2019

## ABOUT

The McNair Doctoral Assistantship Program was created to provide support for students who have successfully completed the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program as undergraduates. UF provides a limited number of research assistantships for McNair Scholars who are entering a Ph.D. program at this institution.

## PROGRAM BENEFITS AND FEATURES

- Minimum stipend: \$26,080 (for 4 years)
- Full in-state tuition
- Fee Waiver
- Health Insurance
- Funding is for a 0.50 FTE research assistantship or teaching assistantship appointment

### For McNair doctoral students receiving Graduate School

#### Funding Awards:

- Minimum stipend: \$31,000 for 5 years plus full tuition, fees, and health insurance coverage.

UF Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives  
The Graduate School  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**DEADLINE TO  
APPLY  
APRIL 29, 2019**

*For other funding situations such as the receipt of major external fellowship awards to enrolling or enrolled McNair doctoral scholars, accommodations will be made to ensure fiscal benefits to the student.*

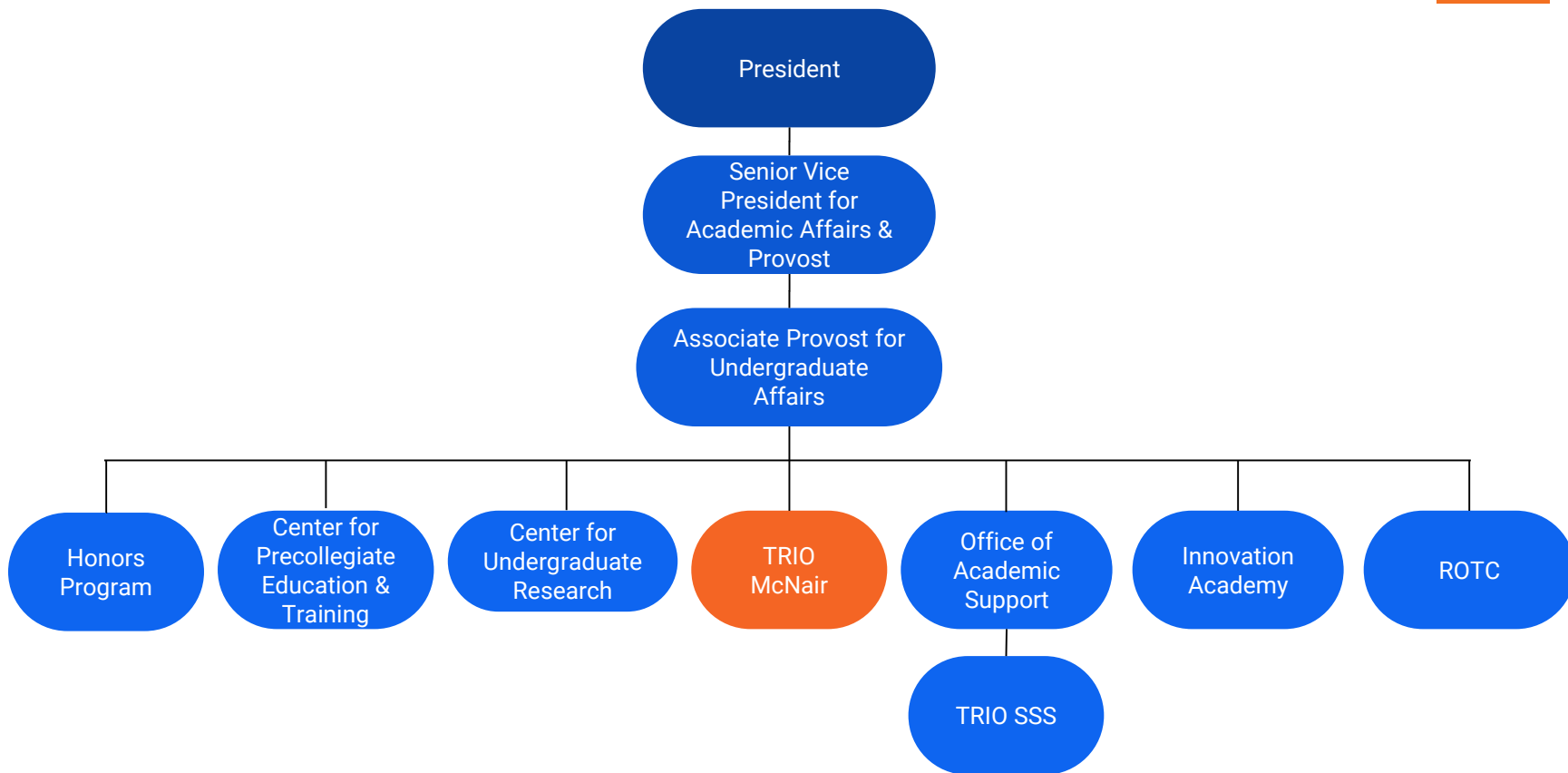
## Funding and Programs:

- LSAMP-Bridge to the Doctorate (NSF)
- UF/SFC Faculty Development Project
- McKnight Doctoral Fellowship
- Auzenne Dissertation Award
- Supplemental Tuition Award
- Graduate School Doctoral Research Travel Award
- OGMP PhD Travel Support
- Board of Education Summer Fellowship

# McNair at UF

- Funded since 1995
- Originally housed in the Graduate School
- Relocated to Undergraduate Affairs in 2009
- Serves 25 UF juniors & seniors
  - Juniors can apply to continue during senior year
- All majors with an emphasis on STEM (60%)





# Laying the Foundation

- Designated McNair Advisory Council position for a Graduate School rep fostered an ongoing connection
- Retirement of Asst. Dean of the Graduate School led to a vacancy
  - Decided that a rep from OGDII would be the best fit for the council
- Hiring of new staff in OGDII necessitated being intentional about onboarding and relationship building
- Extended an invitation to present at the first UF McNair Graduate Admissions Boot Camp
- Opened the door to future collaborations

# Our Partnership

## The Graduate School

- Serve on Advisory Council
- Assist with selecting scholars
- Conduct workshops during summer & academic year
- Provide feedback on resumes & personal statements
- Help identify potential McNair Peer Advisors
- Provide special award for exemplary McNair Scholars
- Offer assistantships & other opportunities for McNair Scholars
- Give insight into student needs
- Additional resource for students



## McNair Scholars Program

- Identify students who want to continue graduate studies at UF
- Assist with recruiting efforts
- Share opportunities with the McNair community
- Help educate graduate coordinators about McNair
- Assist with selection of special graduate student awards
- Collaborate on special initiatives, e.g. 3 Minute Thesis, Smart Cents grant, etc.

# Key Outcomes

## Sharing Resources

Accomplish more through collaboration than we could individually (small staff, limited budget)

## Building Community

Facilitates relationships between McNair Scholars, graduate students, & the Graduate School staff

## Supplemental Support

Encourages McNair Scholars to perform at a high level vs. just going through the program

*Everyone Wins*



# Takeaways

- It takes a village to raise a Ph.D.
- Work smarter, not harder
- Build strong relationships with the Graduate School & other campus partners to stretch your resources
  - Identify offices/programs with related goals/services on your campus (e.g. Center for Undergraduate Research, etc.)
- Partnerships create advocacy for your students & your program
- Relationships take time & effort
  - Set a recurring meeting with your Graduate School contact
  - Invite them to social activities, not just workshops
- Give, don't just take
  - Offer your expertise/time/resources
- If you don't have one, establish an advisory council for your program and be strategic in selecting representatives



**Samesha Barnes, Ph.D.**

Director & Lecturer, McNair Scholars Program

[sbarnes@aa.ufl.edu](mailto:sbarnes@aa.ufl.edu)

**Tyisha Hathorn, Ph.D.**

Director, Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives

[thathorn@ufl.edu](mailto:thathorn@ufl.edu)