

## McNair Scholars Program

Central Michigan University

### SRI Handout

#### CMU McNair Alumni – Funding Case Studies

### Rebecca

Ph.D. in Communications  
Ohio University

Undergrad GPA: 3.4 & GRE V370 Q600 A4.0

#### • **PACKAGE**

- Guaranteed four years; all tuition; health care subsidy; \$14,000 stipend; pays \$500 in fees 3x per year; gets \$3000 summer stipend; got 2 scholarships too (\$2,000 and \$1500); takes home \$1700/month after tax
- Teaches 2 classes every quarter; 20 hours/week
- Was offered \$15,000 in loans w/FAFSA (took out some for car)
- Received \$750 travel grant from department to go to Columbia for pre-dissertation research; is applying for a Fulbright grant (\$6000) to supplement

#### • **LIVING**

- Has 2 bedroom house; pays \$550/month plus utilities (\$150)
- Is moving into another house with 2 roommates; will pay \$300/month

#### • **COMMENTS**

- Feels secure in funding; Athens is a small town and not too expensive

### Laura

Ph.D. in Neuropsychology  
East Carolina University

Undergrad GPA: 3.3 & GRE V430 Q570 A4.5

#### • **PACKAGE**

- Guaranteed four years; all tuition; health insurance; \$15,000 stipend; pays \$800 in fees and \$500 for books per year; gets \$5000 summer stipend; takes home \$1800/month after tax
- Is a research assistant for advisor; 20 hours/week
- Must secure residency after first year to secure tuition coverage
- Took out \$2200 loan for supplemental \$

#### • **LIVING**

- Has 2 bedroom apartment; pays \$600/month plus utilities (\$150)

#### • **COMMENTS**

- Feels okay about funding; feels like money is a little tight; Greenville is like Mount Pleasant, little bigger

### Isa

Ph.D. in Anthropology  
Michigan State University

Undergrad GPA: 3.8 & GRE V450 Q450 A5.0

#### • **PACKAGE**

- Started at MSU without funding; was living at home - parents offered to help (tuition cost is \$7000 per semester); found advisor who got her tuition coverage for 1st year plus health insurance; became a quarter-time (10 hours/week) TA 2nd semester and got \$3500 stipend/semester
- Received depart. grant (\$1500) for travel to Mexico for pre-dissertation research; applying for \$3500 more for next fall
- Has secured TA/RA position each semester for 2nd year (mentor has a lot of grant \$)

#### • **GRANT**

- Began working on a 20-page grant with mentor third semester (worked 9 - 5 in Jan.) secured \$35,000; covers tuition and RA position for 2 years (\$15,000 stipend)

#### • **LIVING**

- Supplemented funding through RA position for grad students in university apartments; works 15 hours/week and gets a furnished 2 bedroom apt. (utilities included)

**NOTE:** Isa spent three semesters at University of Texas – Austin getting her master's; got a McNair tuition waiver that covered the first year; after she got there, secured a GA position in the Dean of Students office; \$9,000 stipend plus health insurance; work 25 hours/week; got \$5000 from dept. for travel to Mexico; paid \$500/month for a crappy 1 bedroom apt. within walking distance to campus (utilities included); worked misc. jobs along the way – babysitting, etc.

**ISA'S COMMENTS:** *Feels lucky about how things have gone for her – was pretty stressful at times and didn't know if she was going to make it; things will work out if they are meant to; keep seeking opportunities, you never know what is going to turn up; find people who can facilitate your success; jump on ALL opportunities to present, facilitate brown-bag lunches, volunteer, etc.; networking is key to meeting the right people – work hard and good luck!*