Brother 2 Brother and Circle of Trust members selected as McNair Achievement Program Scholars

Jonesboro, AR. – February 16, 2010 – Two members of Brother 2 Brother and three members of Circle of Trust were selected as Ronald E. McNair Scholars at Arkansas State University. Ronald McNair, a physicist and the second African American to fly in space, realized his dream of becoming an astronaut, and then flew on his first mission in 1984. On Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded and killed McNair and six other crew members.

After the disaster, the U.S. Congress approved funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program to increase the number of low-income, first-generation and underrepresented minority college students who pursue and complete the doctoral degree. The program’s goal is to attract these students into careers as researchers and professors on the university level.

The McNair Achievement Program returned to the campus of Arkansas State University in the fall of 2009 and selected its first group of scholars in January 2010. “I am extremely proud of our Brother 2 Brother (B2B) and Circle of Trust (COT) members. These young people have made a commitment to conduct research and are motivated to continue their learning beyond the bachelor’s degree. In the future, I hope to see more of our members involved in the McNair Achievement Program,” says Melanie Richardson, diversity-fellow and advisor to Brother 2 Brother and Circle of Trust.

The B2B and COT McNair Achievement Program scholars are:

Charmaine Coleman of Sherwood, AR., bachelor’s of science, major: psychology; Chastity Collins of Jonesboro, AR., bachelor’s of science, major: biological sciences; Anthony Davis of Hughes, AR., bachelor’s of science, major: psychology; Shellvey Robinson of Pine Bluff, AR., bachelor’s of agriculture and technology, major: technology; and Tabitha Reynolds of El Dorado, AR., bachelor’s of science, major: psychology.