# *"The Doctor"*McNair Scholars Program

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Dr. Robert Weems presented

PhD from the University of

up dreading what the day has to offer. Many people pursue a job for the money, but f nd that money isn't everything Weems assured students that if they are passionate and en thusiastic about what they are doing the money will follow

emphasized benefts of the

advantage of what the program has to offer.

Weems grew up in Chicago and began his postsecondary career primarily focused on playing basketball. During that time, he noticed that his college professors seemed to have a pretty good life and career. He also had a professor who took an interest in him. There is a low number of African Americans with PhD's and this professor believed that

back on this journey, Weems stressed that the key to being successful is finding the right mentors

Weems received a fellowship from Boston University. At first, the award seemed like a lot of money. However, once he got there, he realized that it really didn't go very far. Weems pointed to two major decisions in his life that were influenced by money. The first caused him to switch his focus from history to education in hopes of securing a higher paying job. He realized that he had made a mistake almost immediately. He got through the first year in that program and was offered a full time position directing a school

begin earning a salary in order to pursue his original goal of

Money is a big temptation that may draw students away from their dreams of earning a PhD Weems warned. Earning a PhD requires a "fre in the belly", regardless of the discipline students pursue. It requires focus and dedication. For Weems, his decision to continue following his dream

him personal satisfaction. He explained that two thirds of people working in all industries hate their job. They wake

### How should students choose a PhD program?

"The short answer is the one that offers you the most financial aid," Weems joked, although he did warn students to expect some financial difficulty. Weems encouraged students

at what professors are researching. He also advised students

### How do you balance your personal life?

This can be a challenge. Weems recommended that students sit down with their loved ones at the beginning. Pursu exp— .  $\tilde{}$  s at tud $\tilde{}$   $\tilde{}$   $\tilde{}$   $\tilde{}$   $\tilde{}$   $\tilde{}$   $\tilde{}$   $\tilde{}$ 

sage as legitimate and not spam and gives the professor an idea of who's sending the message.

2. Always use subject lines. Use the subject line to indicate what the email is for or in regards to.

3. Address your professor directly, don't just launch straight into a request. ExamM. M d p y/  $\mathbb{Q}$ 

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## McNair Events



of the Career

information about professional dress

during April's grad



Zumba lessons

brain break from studying for f nals

Martina enjoy a study break during

8th, 2015.



presentation of his

"Self-adjoint Extensions of

research assembly



Matt show off

Zumba lessons at



dropped by the off ce prior to submitting his

with his master of



University of

Salma Ayoub led

on a tour of the BME lab following

# **McNair Scholars Program**

"The Doctor"

McNair Scholars Program

Wichita State University

Grace Wilkie Annex, Room 173

Campus Box 199

Wichita, KS 67260-0199

Phone: (316) 978-3139

Fax: (316) 978-3439

E-mail: mcnairscholars@wichita.edu

Ashley Cervantes, Editor

Website: webs.wichita.edu/mcnair

#### Staff:

LaWanda Holt-Fields, Director Maria Lucas, Senior Administrative Assistant Ashley Cervantes, Program Counselor Noah Trammell, Writing Tutor Matthew DeAngelis, Research Coordinator