

# **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

*The Island University*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Texas A&M-Corpus Christi McNair Scholars Give Presentations at National McNair Research Conference at UW-Milwaukee**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Six McNair Scholars from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi presented their research at the 18th annual National McNair Research Conference at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee held Thursday and Friday, Nov. 5-6.

- Oscar Villarreal, a junior chemistry major, gave the presentation “The Synthesis, Characterization and Utilization of Branched Amino Acid Based Surfactants as Pseudostationary Phases for the Enantiomeric Separation of Chiral Compounds with Capillary Electrophoresis.”
- Brenda Vela, a junior sociology major, gave the presentation “Perceptions of Women: What Factors Influence Women to Pursue Male-Dominated Majors.”
- Martha Ruiz, a junior history major, gave the presentation “Magic in My Neighborhood: Curanderas and Folk Healing in Late Twentieth Century Corpus Christi, Texas.”
- Norma Martinez, a senior biochemistry major, gave the presentation “The Effect of Density Dependence on the Growth Rate of Red Drum via RNA: DNA Ratio Analysis.”
- Mayra Garcia, a junior psychology major, gave the presentation “Battle of South Texas: Ethnic Identity and First-Year Experience.”
- Chenika Fowler, a senior psychology major, gave the presentation “The Effect of Relationship Duration on Maintenance Expectations.”
- Kelli Huey, a sophomore psychology major, attended the conference.

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The National McNair Research Conference is designed to provide undergraduate students the opportunity to explore graduate study as a realistic option. Workshops, panel discussions and activities introduce McNair Scholars to the nature of graduate study and provide helpful tips and suggestions in writing an effective graduate admissions application.

The McNair Scholars program is a federally-funded program that provides first-generation, low-income, minority college students with paid internships and mentoring to prepare for enrollment in graduate programs and to obtain a Ph.D.

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