

October 14, 2009

Dear McNair Scholar,

Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) has been informed by the Council of Graduate Schools and the Council for Opportunity in Education of your pending baccalaureate graduation. We commend you on completing your training as a McNair Scholar and look forward to forging a relationship with you to pursue graduate study at SIUC.

To introduce you to SIUC, an invitation is extended to you to participate in the *Saluki Campus Visit* during November 29 - December 1, 2009. The program will begin with your checking in the motel after 2:00 p.m. on November 29th and concludes on December 1st at 10:00 a.m. This two-day visitation for McNair Scholars will provide you with the opportunity to meet with designated department representatives and current graduate students; tour our academic facilities; and learn of handsome financial aid programs and receive assistance in completing relevant applications. We would be pleased to provide to you a travel reimbursement of up to \$150.00, two nights lodging and single room accommodation at the Carbondale Super 8 Motel, and meals on Monday and Tuesday morning. Due to the limited openings, we will only be able to accommodate up to 25 students for the *Saluki Campus Visit*. If this arrangement is acceptable to you, please complete the attached "[Registration Form](#)" and provide a copy of your current student transcript by November 1, 2009. You will be notified of your selection for the *Saluki Campus Visit* during the week of November 9th.

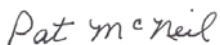
SIUC provides instruction in 64 master's and 30 doctoral programs and has always been exceptional in numerous areas essential to scientific and educational development. For the *Saluki Campus Visit*, we are particularly interested in students who seriously wish to pursue advanced degree(s) in Geology, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Geography and Environmental Resources, Plant Biology and Zoology. Although my immediate focus is to recruit stellar students for our science programs, I have a parallel interest in budding scholars from other disciplines. For comprehensive information about our degree programs, admission processes, and financial resources, please see the "[Admissions](#)" link, and then scroll to Brochure – Info for Prospective U.S. Students. In particular, note pages 4-5, 14-15, and 17.

There are exceptional financial aid programs that are offered by SIUC, especially for the science disciplines. Of particular note is the new National Science Foundation IGERT (Integrative Graduate Educational and Research Traineeship) Fellowship for admitted students interested in pursuing any water-, river- or watershed-related field of study. This fellowship will provide a \$30,000 per year stipend, a \$10,500 per year education allowance, a laptop, annual international river basin tours, and support for research and conference travel. For complete information, see <http://www.igert.siu.edu>.

Other programs that are also available to promising master's and doctoral students are the PROMPT Assistantship/Fellowship, the Graduate Dean's Fellowship, Master's and Doctoral Fellowships; and the Delyte and Dorothy Morris Doctoral Fellowship. Visit <http://www.gradschool.siu.edu/> and scroll down to "Financial Assistance" and review the fellowships listed under the sub-categories of Graduate Assistantships, Graduate Fellowships and Graduate Scholarships.

The *Saluki Campus Visit (November 29 - December 1, 2009)* provides an opportunity for students who are serious about attending Southern Illinois University Carbondale and desire to receive individualized instruction and information about the institution's degree programs and fellowships. If you have any questions, I may be contacted at (618) 453-4330 or by e-mail at pmcneil@siu.edu.

Sincerely,



Pat McNeil
Assistant Dean