

McNair Challenger *NEWSFLASH!!*

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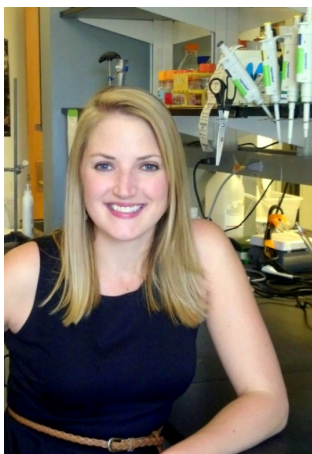
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Meet Dr. Ashley Durand Rowland!

EMU McNair's *FIRST* Ph.D.!



Exactly one year ago, Ashley Rowland was interviewed by **Tiffany Browne** for the **McNair SmartNews!** This week we learned that our EMU alumna ('09) has been conferred with her doctoral degree!

"I find myself at a critical period in my studies, where things could go very well or pretty badly. I'm *so* close to success!" After six and a half years of doctoral studies, EMU graduate **Ashley Rowland** ('09) has completed her **Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology** at the **University of Colorado, Boulder**. It has taken many years and countless hours of studying, lab work and research, but Ashley's hard work has paid off!

Ashley's research focuses on basic cell biology and seeks to understand how cell organelles coordinate their functions. Her first two years at the University of Colorado were spent mastering highly advanced research techniques and serving as a Teaching Assistant. After passing her comprehensive exams and successfully defending her research to questions by a panel of Biology faculty, Ashley turned her full attention toward her dissertation. Good time management and personal dedication have allowed her to stay on track, while making the most of her graduate school experience. Ashley also feels that her previous academic training increased her confidence.

When asked what she identifies as the most important component in her success, Ashley answered: "Selecting good mentors is the most important skill you can develop; what sets people apart is the support of their mentors." Ashley's EMU mentor, **Dr. Robert Winning, Professor of Biology**, writes, "Not only did Ashley earn her Ph.D., but her dissertation research was published as the cover paper in *Cell*, the highest-impact scientific journal in the world. We're all really proud of her."

Congratulations to Ashley Rowland, EMU McNair's *first* Doctor of Philosophy!

The McNair Scholars Program prepares the next generation of
leaders!

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The McNair Program prepares first-generation students for admission and success in graduate education. Students are admitted on a rolling basis. Please contact us for more information.