

## SAEOPP 2011 Keynote Speaker

### **JOSÉ M. HERNÁNDEZ** **NASA ASTRONAUT (FORMER)**

**PERSONAL DATA:** Born August 7, 1962 in French Camp, California. Considers Stockton, California, to be his hometown.

**EDUCATION:** B.S., Electrical Engineering, University of the Pacific, 1984. M.S., Electrical & Computer Engineering, University of California-Santa Barbara, 1986.

**ORGANIZATIONS:** Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES).

**SPECIAL HONORS:** Ph.D. Science, University of the Pacific (honoris causa), 2006. NASA Service Awards (2002, 2003), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory “Outstanding Engineer Award” (2001), Upward Bound National TRIO Achiever Award (2001), U.S. Department of Energy “Outstanding Performance Commendation” (2000), Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES) “Medalla de Oro” recipient for professional and community contributions (1999), Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Award, “Outstanding Technical Contribution” (1995), Graduate Engineering Minority Fellow (GEM) (1985), and Eta Kappa Nu Electrical Engineering Honor Society member.

**EXPERIENCE:** 1987-2001 were spent at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California.

*1987-1991 Electronics Engineer, Material Analysis Group.* Refined signal and image processing skills for applications in radar imaging, computed tomography, acoustic imaging and other non-destructive evaluation techniques.

*1991-1994 Electronics Engineer, Chemistry and Material Science Group.* Developed quantitative x-ray film imaging analysis techniques that allowed the characterization of low-density materials for use in the development of an X-Ray laser as part of the Strategic Defense Initiative Program. Developed material x-ray transport models that allowed for the development of human tissue absorbed dose models useful for medical imaging applications.

*1994-1996 Group Leader, Chemistry and Material Science Group.* Managed the career development of twenty-nine professional technical staff members who supported chemistry and materials science research activities. Identified and developed the Group’s programmatic research support opportunities. Carried out own research activities as a principal investigator in the area of x-ray physics and image processing.

*1996-1999 Deputy Program Manager, Highly Enriched Uranium Implementation Program.* Responsible for the implementation of a signed bilateral agreement between the U.S. and Russian Federation for the U.S. purchase of highly enriched uranium (HEU) in the form of low enriched uranium (LEU) derived from the dismantlement of Russian nuclear weapons. Responsibilities included utilizing national laboratory resources for the purpose of ensuring the U.S. government that the LEU purchased was derived from dismantled nuclear weapons. This was accomplished by developing technical training modules for U.S. multi-lab and multi-agency experts, which allowed them to visit Russian facilities and effectively perform inspections in accordance to U.S.-Russian signed agreements, protocols and annexes. Fiscal planning responsibilities for the \$16 Million multi-lab implementation budget and direct oversight of the \$6 million annual budget for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory component.



*1999-2001 Program Manager, Office of International Material Protection and Emergency Cooperation.* On a two-year change-of-station assignment at the U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. Managed the integration and allocation of Department of Energy assets and expertise, including the national laboratories and contractors, in planning, directing, and implementing U.S. cooperation with the Russian Federation in the program of Nuclear Materials, Protection, Control and Accounting (MPC&A). Developed and implemented policies, strategies and plans and objectives to enhance U.S. national security and reduce threat of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. These goals were accomplished by rapidly improving the security of large quantities of attractive, weapons-usable nuclear material at the closed Ministry of Atomic Energy (MinAtom) cities that comprise Russia's nuclear weapons complex. Proposed, defended and executed annual budget of over \$14 million to support extensive engineering, technical safety, security, and environmental research and policy development with regard to MPC&A at three of the seven MinAtom sites.

**NASA EXPERIENCE:** In 2001, Hernandez joined the Johnson Space Center, in Houston, Texas.

*Mar 01 – Jan 02 Materials Research Engineer, Materials & Processes Branch.* Developed, evaluated, and selected advanced structural materials to aircraft and spacecraft structures and their power and propulsion systems. Conducted research in basic engineering materials and apply general engineering mechanics principles to define material behavior. Designed and fielded radiation effects experiments for electronic hardware. Served as the Engineering Directorate's liaison on the electrical wire integrity interagency working group.

*Jan 02 – Jun 04 Branch Chief, Materials, & Processes Branch. Materials and Processes (M&P) branch chief within the Structural Engineering Division.* Duties included managing the careers of 30 professional civil servants with diverse set of skills in materials science. Also serve as the overall technical monitor of contractor support that included more than 20 contractors. Responsible for the oversight of the branch's activities in the areas of materials and processes, fracture control, non destructive evaluation, failure analysis, and nano materials research. More specifically, managed branch resources to address materials usage issues with respect to flammability, toxicity, contamination, space environment compatibility, and corrosion. Materials testing and fracture control analysis of flight and non-flight hardware were also significant activities within the branch. Served as the project lead for the development of a space qualified borescope for future on-orbit EVA inspection applications.

Selected by NASA in May 2004. In February 2006, he completed Astronaut Candidate Training that included scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in Shuttle and International Space Station systems, physiological training, T-38 flight training, and water and wilderness survival training. Hernandez was assigned to the Astronaut Office Shuttle Branch supporting Shuttle launch and landing preparations at Kennedy Space Center. He departed NASA in January 2011.

**SPACE FLIGHT EXPERIENCE:** STS-128 Discovery (August 28 to September 11, 2009) was the 128<sup>th</sup> Shuttle mission and the 30th mission to the International Space Station. While at the orbital outpost, the STS-128 crew rotated an expedition crewmember, attached the Leonardo Multi-Purpose Logistics Module (MPLM), and transferred over 18,000 pounds of supplies and equipment to the station. The STS-128 crew conducted three spacewalks. The STS-128 mission was accomplished in 217 orbits of the Earth, traveling over 5.7 million miles in 332 hours and 53 minutes and returned to land at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

*Oct 10 – Present* Trained as Mission Control Capsule Communicator and also on detail at NASA Headquarters' Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs where he helped develop space policy, interacted with congressional members and promoted the President's new vision on Space Exploration.

*Feb 11 – Present* Employed as the Executive Director for Strategic Operations at MEI Technologies Inc. (MEIT) located in Houston, TX.

## SAEOPP McNair Conference-Sunday Speaker: “Words of Inspiration”



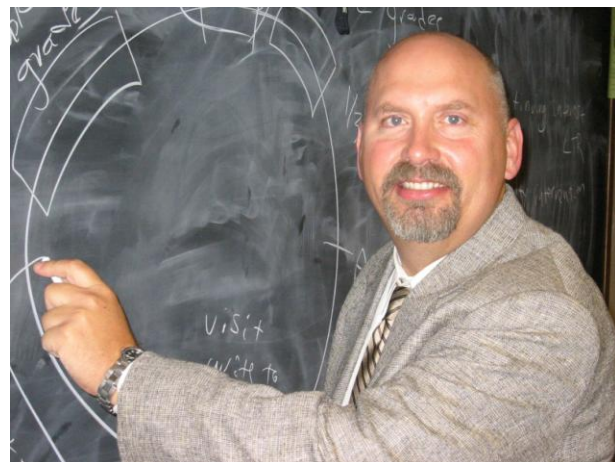
**Reginald McNair** has an extensive amount of international and high-finance experience in the financial consulting, venture capital, hedge fund, and investment banking arena within regions such as Costa Rica, Chile, China, and Switzerland. Mr. McNair acquired his undergraduate degree from Florida A&M University in Business and Spanish. Reginald’s proficiency in Spanish inspired him to pursue an additional language, so he studied Chinese Mandarin at Jiao Tong University Shanghai, where China’s current president, Hu Jintao, graduated. McNair lived in China for 2 years as he worked for an investment firm and explored the country. Since his college years at FAMU, Reginald has traveled to over 25 countries and has a passion to learn multiple languages and diverse cultures. He recently established Longevity Partners, LLC., an

investment fund based in Atlanta, Georgia that concentrates on equity derivative trading and private business investments. He is in the process of establishing a study abroad scholarship fund to promote international awareness for undergraduate students to enhance their global perspective.

Reginald McNair is the only son of the late Dr. Ronald E. McNair. He is happily married to Shayla McNair, who is an actress and entrepreneur. Reginald enjoys skiing, playing basketball, studying psychology, and world traveling.

## SAEOPP McNair Conference Plenary Presenters:

**Donald Asher** is one of the nation's foremost authorities on the graduate admissions process. Hundreds of thousands of students have seen his lectures, tapes, and teleconferences. He is the author of twelve books, including *Graduate Admissions Essays*, the best-selling guide to the graduate admissions process, and *The Best Scholarships for the Best Students*.



He has been a keynote or featured speaker for the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals (NAGAP), the Ronald E. McNair Scholars National Conference in Delavan, Wisconsin, the Penn State TRIO Training Institute (offered coast to coast), the SREB Compact for Faculty Diversity, the annual Penn State McNair Conference, the University of Puerto Rico-San Juan McNair Conference, the New McNair Directors Training Program in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Maryland McNair Conference, the Oregon Statewide Graduate School Fair, the Indiana Statewide Conference on Undergraduate Research, the Wisconsin Statewide Conference on Undergraduate Research, Caltech's Ph.D. Career Development Days, and at hundreds of colleges and universities throughout the United States. He has been the keynote presenter for over ten years for the Professional Development Series of live teleconferences and webinars offered by the University of Tennessee, where he has *four times* hosted the National Teleconference on Graduate Admissions.

He has been a contributing writer to MSN homepage, MSN Encarta, the *Wall Street Journal's* CareerJournal.com and CollegeJournal.com, jobstar.org, monster.com, careerbuilder.com, the *Los*

*Angeles Times* career development web site, *US Airways* magazine, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *San Francisco Examiner*, and Dow Jones, Inc.'s *National Business Employment Weekly* and *Managing Your Career* magazine. His work can also be found in professional journals, including national and regional publications of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) and the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals (NAGAP).



**Robert (Bob) Belle, Ed.D.** joined the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in November 2002 as the Director for the SREB Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) Doctoral Scholars Program. Prior to joining SREB Bob served as the Director of The Office of Federal TRiO Programs for the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC for almost 4 years. Bob was the TRiO Director when the budget for TRiO was \$802.5 million. Under his leadership over 2,400 grants were awarded to grantees from around the country. This was the largest number of grants ever awarded in TRiO. During his time with TRiO Bob reached out to the TRiO community to seek their input on a number of policy and program activities.

Bob took the lead in advocating the necessity for TRiO Programs to take seriously the infusing of technology as an integral part of their instruction and program administration plans. He documented the “digital divide” issue and the need to enhance the technology capacity for all TRiO programs. As a result over \$17 million was awarded for technology enhancement to five of the six TRiO service programs during his tenure in TRiO. In addition, Bob always encouraged and supported TRiO professionals to continue to grow and enhance their professional skills. Bob was always supportive of McNair programs and demonstrated that support by making sure McNair scholars and directors were able to attend and participate in the Compact for Faculty Diversity Annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring. With Bob’s support over the years more than 700 McNair scholars, Directors and Coordinators have had the opportunity to attend the Compact’s Institute.

In his current position as the Director, SREB-AGEP Doctoral Scholars Program he is responsible for the implementation of a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This grant was awarded to the Southern Regional Education Board in Atlanta, Georgia to serve 100+ scholars from around the country who participate in NSF’s Alliance for Graduate Education in the Professoriate (AGEP). There are approximately 20+ AGEP sites around the country. All AGEP programs seek to increase significantly the number of minority and underrepresented students receiving doctoral degrees in the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Under Bob’s leadership over 900 AGEP scholars from around the country have participated in the Compact’s for Faculty Diversity Institutes.

So even in this new role, Bob continues to work on behalf of those students who traditionally have been underserved or denied access to higher educational opportunity. He has advised and counsel hundreds of students throughout his distinguished career. He remains committed to making a difference.

Bob earned a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Glassboro State Teachers College, which is now Rowan University. He earned a masters degree in Pupil Personnel Services from Seton Hall University. He earned a doctoral degree from Lehigh University in Counseling Education. He has teaching experience from the elementary level to the collegiate level. He has been an administrator at the collegiate, state, and national levels. Among his numerous awards and recognitions Bob was one of the initial inductees into The Athletic Hall Of Fame at his alma mater Glassboro State College, Glassboro, New Jersey; a recipient of the Walt Disney Community Service Award for Educational Service; and the Compact for Faculty Diversity Frank Abbott “Extra Mile” Award. In 2006 Bob received the Arturo A. Schomberg Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Equality and Excellence in Education, Inc.

**Bob’s motto is:**

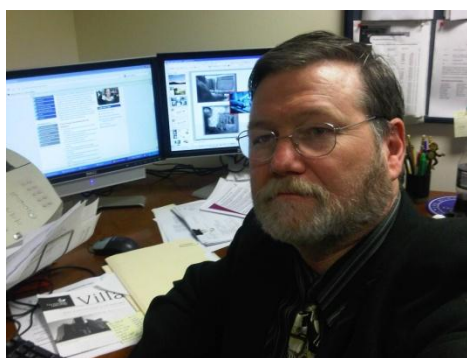
**“Always believe that what you do today is preparation for something better tomorrow.” *Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor***

## SAEOPP McNair Conference Workshops Presenters



**Joseph Brown, Ph.D.** received his BS degree in physics from Southwest Texas State University and a ScM degree in biomedical engineering from Brown University. After working for IBM he was admitted to the PhD program in psychology at Stanford University. His graduate work focused on the influence of stereotypes and prejudice on the intellectual identities and performance of minorities and women. After receiving his doctorate in 2000, he taught at the University of Washington. In January 2003 he returned to Stanford to work on graduate diversity in the School of Humanities and Sciences. He also lectures in the department of Psychology.

**Curtis D. Byrd, M.Ed.** has over fifteen years of experience in preparing students for graduate school and career, professional and leadership development. Currently, at the University of Florida he serves as the Associate Director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and McNair Scholars Program. Prior to arriving at UF, Mr. Byrd served as the Director of the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement program at Georgia State University, after leaving his one year post as Executive Director of the Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (a National Science Foundation funded program). From 2000-2006, Mr. Byrd was Director of Graduate Recruitment at the University of Georgia. During that time, minority graduate enrollment increased by 30% and UGA achieved the 11th place ranking among US universities for producing African American doctorates. He currently serves on the National Advisory Board for Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. Mr. Byrd earned both his B.S. in Psychology and M.Ed. in Higher Education at Iowa State University.



**David A. Washburn, Ph.D.** is a Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, chair of the Department of Psychology, and Director of the Language Research Center at Georgia State University. He earned his Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from that same institution in 1991, and joined the faculty in 2000. Professor Washburn's research program is focused on individual and group (including species) differences in attention, executive functioning, and learning, as these cognitive competencies are manifest in human adults and children, chimpanzees, and monkeys.

This research program has received support through grants from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the McDonnell-Pew Foundation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Army Research Office and Institute, the US Army Medical Corp and Material Command, the US Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Dr. Washburn has authored or co-authored over 100 journal articles and book chapters. He is the co-author (with Duane Rumbaugh) of the book, *The*

*Intelligence of Apes and Other Rational Beings* and editor of the book *Primate Perspectives on Behavior and Cognition*.

**Berenecea Johnson Eanes, Ph.D.** has over fifteen years of experience as an administrator and educator dedicated to student services. She is currently Vice President for Student Development at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. In this position, Dr. Johnson Eanes provides vision, leadership, and oversight to all student services entities on campus including: Student Activities and Campus Life, Health Services, Disabled Student Services, the Children's Center, Athletics and Career Services. In addition, she holds the rank of Associate Professor and Chair the Counseling and Communication Skills Department.



Dr. Johnson Eanes held the rank of Assistant Clinical Professor of Social Work at the Georgia State University School of Social Work. Dr. Johnson Eanes's research interests include: effects of class change, gender role attitudes among women of color, adolescent sexuality, and various aspects of social work practice. Her earlier research investigates mate selection and perceptions of marriage among African American college men.



**Mary Kollmer Horton, MPH, MA** was born and lived the majority of her life in New York State. She received her Bachelor's degree in Biology from Russell Sage College in Troy, NY and she earned dual master's degrees in Public Health and Epidemiology from Columbia University's School of Public Health. From 1989-1991, Mary worked at the New York City Department of Health on a special task force under the Commissioner of Health, which was directed at improving the efficiency and management of the various education and clinical units of the Department. In 1991, Mary took a position in the Grants Office of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, and over the next six years, Mary's position grew to include extensive work in scientific grant writing, grants management and budget administration. While at Cold Spring Harbor Lab she worked with faculty at the State University of NY at Stony Brook to forward a model NSF sponsored program to encourage Women in Science and Engineering.

In late 1997, Mary joined the M.D./Ph.D. Program at Emory University as its Administrative Director. Over the past 13 years, Mary assisted in doubling the size of the program, aided in the development of an inter-institutional relationship with the Georgia Institute of Technology Center for Bioengineering and Biomedical Engineering, as well as lobbied for the growth of other alternative dual degree options at Emory in public health, the social sciences and the liberal arts. She currently serves as a co-director of the Emory M.D./Ph.D. Program, providing leadership over both the academic and administrative missions of M.D./Ph.D. training. Additionally, Mary has served on several Emory University committees related to science education and is also an ex-officio member of the AAMC GREAT Group M.D./Ph.D. Section Communications Committee. She frequently gives presentations on M.D./Ph.D. training, and has been invited locally and nationally to sit on panels related to science and health careers, M.D./Ph.D. training and academic administration.

Mary is currently working toward a Ph.D. in the Institute of the Liberal Arts at Emory University with a focus on the history of psychiatric medicine. She and her husband are both active members of the Emory community, and are equally engaged in the activities of their four very interesting and different children ages 5, 9, 14, and 17. Mary and her family reside outside of Atlanta in Stone Mountain.



**Kendra Mayers** is a certified professional in Human Resources with over 10 years experience in the private, public, and non-profit sector. In her roles, she has acquired specialist knowledge in such areas as recruitment and career development. As an independent consultant, she offers her services to individuals and organizations that need career development assistance. She has designed and engineered programs and workshops to help large and small, dynamic, and diverse employer groups. Individuals seeking her services have been equipped with the tools and techniques for building self-confidence, self-esteem, and marketability of strengths in order to remain competitive in today's tough work environment. One of her passions is developing women to unlock their potential so they can become confident in trusting their intuition, experience and industry-knowledge to become more effective in the workplace. Mrs. Mayers currently manages the human resources department in the sales center for Allconnect, one of Atlanta's fastest growing companies.

**Tom Holcomb, M.S.** is originally a native of Murray, Kentucky, where he graduated from Murray State University with both a Masters of Science in the field of Counseling – Human Development and Leadership, with an emphasis in College Student Personnel, and a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Communication and Youth Non-profit Management. He has worked in Youth and Human Service Programs for eight years where he has worked jobs in counseling, leadership, human development, and project management. Currently Mr. Holcomb is at the College of Charleston in South Carolina as Director of ROAR Scholars (TRIO-Student Support Services) since December 13, 2010. He has taught workshops and trainings on the local, state, and regional level including “First Impressions are Lasting,” “Business Etiquette,” “Professional Decorum and Communication Strategies for Success in a Culturally Diverse Global Society,” and “Unleashing the Professional Within!” in addition to online career portfolios on “How Technology Promotes Career Development” and “How to be an Effective Leader in a Global Society.”



Mr. Holcomb developed and produced the University of Tennessee - EAP Career Fashion Show of Spring 2007, which was sponsored by Dillard's Department Store, West Town Mall, Knoxville, Tennessee. He has also developed and helped facilitate the EAP Dining Etiquette Luncheon for the past three years, and created the EAP professional career panel for the past five semesters. His workshops are dynamic, exciting, and person-centered. His personalized touch and energy that he brings to the scene are cutting edge, and he knows how to keep an audience.

Mr. Holcomb is currently working on publishing two articles, one on career development, and the other on developing a holistic counseling & advising model for student service programs and developing a holistic counseling model for guidance .

His future plans include obtaining his national certification in Life Coaching and pursuing a future degree in Counselor Education and/or Higher Educational Leadership from a regional and/or state university.



**Deborah L. Rhodes, Ph.D.** is currently the Director of Georgia State University's McNair Scholars Academy and the Student Support Services STEM Center for Excellence. She has over twenty-five years of experience with educational programs, including having worked previously as a Regional Representative for Higher Education with the U.S. Department of Education. In addition to having served as an assistant professor and assistant dean at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Dr. Rhodes has also worked for organizations such as, the Library of

Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and The Johns Hopkins University. She is a graduate of Emory University and the University of Pittsburgh and her international travels include visiting such places as France, Switzerland and several African countries.

**Deidre Steed, M.S.**, has been working in Student Support Services (SSS) for over eight years at Georgia State University (GSU) and is now the Assistant Project Director for the SSS Program there. She has presented workshops on Resume Writing, Interviewing Skills, Stress Management, Time Management and has collaborated with the GSU McNair Program to host graduate school panels for undergraduate students interested in graduate programs. She has also traveled extensively and collaborates annually with the GSU Study Abroad Office to help SSS participants find ways to study abroad. She attained her BS in Child and Family Services from Iowa State University and received her MS in Professional Counseling from Georgia State University.







**Sidney R. Childs** is the Director of TRIO Collegiate Services which houses the Student Support Services and Ronald E. McNair Scholars programs at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) and has served as a TRIO advocate for over 16 years. During this time he has helped hundreds of students meet their goal of achieving a college degree.

His experience training includes working with colleges and universities and professional organizations on topics ranging from student retention and success, strategic planning and organizational leadership and effectiveness.

He is the past-president of the Ohio Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (OAEOPP). Previously, he has held a number of leadership positions in the state and regional professional organizations which includes the Student Leadership and Professional Conference Chair and represented the MAEOPP Region by attending the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) TRIO Staff Exchange to Europe. Over the years he has also served the Ohio association by participating in several committees vital to the success of students and the organization.

Mr. Childs is a two-time alumnus of Bowling Green State University receiving a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration and Master of Public Administration from BGSU and is currently a doctoral student in the Leadership and Policy Studies program.