



McNair Scholar Aisha Haynes

McNair Profile: Aisha Haynes

When TRIO scholar Aisha Haynes finally realized her dream of completing her doctorate, she remembered that her long path to academic success started with TRIO when she was a McNair student. “I loved the McNair program and it is because of it that I even started thinking about obtaining a doctorate degree. What a rigorous program!” she said.

Aisha certainly knows the rigors of pursuing a degree. On August 4th, 2012, she earned her Education Doctorate (Ed.D) in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of South Carolina. Her dissertation, “A Study Of The Differences In Learning Styles Between Students Who Select A Traditional Versus A Technology-Enhanced Course Delivery Method,” determined if differences exist in learning styles between students who select a traditional course delivery method over those that are technologically enhanced. Her findings contribute to a

better understanding of why students select a particular course delivery method.

Aisha admits that finishing her doctorate was far from easy. “Completing a dissertation can be a very lonely process,” she said. To meet the challenge, she used a variety of tools to keep her on track, including having strong professors and mentors, a support network of family and friends, and her own determination to succeed. “I had myself on a very tight schedule and I didn’t let anything come in between me and writing,” she said.

Aisha also credits her involvement in the TRIO program as getting her to such an advanced level of academic achievement. “I started off in OSP and was provided many opportunities that many freshmen at USC don’t get. The TRIO program had an environment that fostered learning at a high level.” She also credits her role as a mentor as a factor in her success. “Mentoring is an intriguing two-way street where both individuals can learn a great deal from each other,” she said.

With the help of the TRIO programs, Aisha soon found her way toward pursuing an advanced degree, a path she strongly recommends to other TRIO students. “Many people today have a Bachelor’s degree. A Masters or a Doctorate degree can take you farther. I think that education is the key to success,” she advised. Dr. Aisha Haynes’ success is evident, and she is grateful to the TRIO program for their support, “Honestly, I don’t think I would be where I am today without the TRIO program.” The TRIO family wishes her continued success.