Dr. Jennifer Dahl is recognized as one of UW-Eau Claire’s Ronald E. McNair Program’s 2016 Friend of TRIO Award recipients because of her deep commitment to the program and its Scholars. Dr. Dahl first became a McNair Mentor in the Fall of 2013 when she nominated Tayo Sanders for consideration as a McNair Scholar. In each of the succeeding cohorts, Dr. Dahl has served as a McNair Mentor to one of our talented Scholars. After Tayo, came Mr. Kyle Lobermeier, and after Kyle came Mr. Nick Reitano. As a measure of her commitment to the development of her students and the goals of the McNair Program, despite the fact that Nick was not her Scholar, when his nominating mentor left the university, Dr. Dahl agreed to assist his continued participation in the McNair Program by agreeing to take Nick on in her research lab.

Dr. Dahl joined the UW-Eau Claire Faculty in 2010, after having received her Ph.D. in Chemistry in 2007 from the University of Oregon for her dissertation on the ‘Synthesis of Functional Nanoparticles within a Green Chemistry Context.’ One of Dr. Dahl’s ongoing research projects, the study of Janus Nanoparticles has served as the basis for the McNair Scholar research which positioned Tayo Sanders for his successful pursuit of the Rhodes Scholarship in 2015 and Kyle Lobermeier’s acceptance into the graduate program at Iowa State University for next fall.

Dr. Dahl’s research has appeared in the journal Materials Letters, co-authored with students Tayo Sanders and Mariah Sauceda; and in February of 2015, in recognition of the cutting-edge nature of her research and its implications for the future development of green and renewable technologies, Dr. Dahl was named a Regent Scholar by the UW System Board of Regents. The $50,000 grant attached to that award will no doubt provide numerous opportunities for UW-Eau Claire students and future McNair Scholars as they engage in top-flight research and benefit from Faculty-Student collaborative research opportunities overseen by dedicated and passionate Faculty Mentors. Additionally, in February, Dr. Dahl received a $25,000 WiscAMP grant for the 2016-2017 academic year. The Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation programs, designed to encourage and support the academic growth of minority students, will fund Dr. Dahl’s creation of a program to support and develop underrepresented first- and second-year students at UW-Eau Claire; students who would be ideally positioned as future McNair Program Scholars.

Dr. Dahl’s enduring support for UW-Eau Claire’s students and the mission of the Ronald E. McNair Program have made her worthy of being one of this year’s Friend of TRIO Award recipients.