



THE ADVOCATE

THE OFFICE OF MINORITY STUDENT AFFAIRS' NEWSLETTER

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE OMSA

The Office of Minority Student Affairs provides exceptional support services that enhance the academic achievement, personal development, and graduation rates of first generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students at Illinois.

The Advocate, our semesterly newsletter, allows you to stay connected to the OMSA and discover the outstanding successes of our students!

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 03 **TRIO SSS PEER MENTORING**
- 05 **OMSA & BAN SCHOLARSHIPS**
- 10 **ASC: NEW STAFF AND NEW FRIENDS**
- 15 **3 TRIO PROGRAMS RECRUITING**

WELCOME



Welcome back to Illinois. It's so good to be home! After seventeen months of remote work, in August the Office of Minority Student Affairs returned to campus and open its doors for a blend of in-person and virtually services. Capitalizing on service delivery innovations developed during

the pandemic, the OMSA reopened this fall offering virtual academic advising and tutoring in addition to our full array of traditional in-person services including tutoring, advising, mentoring, coaching, academic skill building, review sessions, structured study groups, and supplemental instruction.

This fall we also welcome 8,303 new students to campus. This is the largest class of new students in our 154-year history. In fact, our new students boosted our total enrollment to a historic 56,257 students. In addition to a record number of new students, due to the pandemic we also welcomed current sophomores and second year graduate and professional students to campus for the first-time as well. So, with nearly 16,000 new Illinois students on campus this fall, it's been perhaps the busiest fall I've seen in over twenty-five years and I'm loving every minute of it!

As we approach finals, I am happy to report OMSA students continue to thrive at Illinois. This edition of **The Advocate** will feature amazing students excelling in an array of disciplines. Additionally, we will highlight some of the wonderful programs, outcomes, and academic professionals that provide inspiration, advocacy, and encouragement for our burgeoning scholars and leaders. Please enjoy this edition of **The Advocate** and thank you for your continued interest in and support for the Office of Minority Student Affairs.

Yours in Orange and Blue,

Domonic Cobb, Director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs & TRIO Programs

FAA '96 and EDU'01

In 2021, University of Illinois students had \$118,670,748 in unmet financial need. The average loan indebtedness for graduating seniors was \$22,830 and 45% of Illinois students borrowed money for school (UIUC Office of Financial Aid).

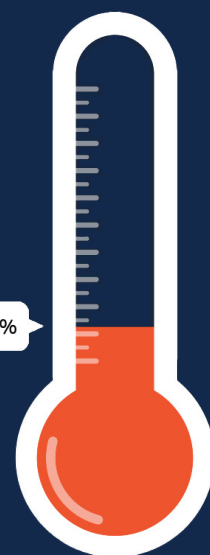
OMSA students are disproportionately represented among borrowers and students with unmet financial need. Please help provide scholarships our deserving students by giving a tax-deductible gift. Visit www.omsa.illinois.edu/give and contribute today.

Our featured scholarship fund is the **Greta Hogan Student Persistence Scholarship**. The Greta Hogan fund was created in 2018 on the 60th anniversary of Greta Hogan's arrival in our community. Greta, as she is affectionately known by her students, is a legendary U of I educator and administrator. She taught, mentored, and advocated for thousands of Illinois' first-generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students across four decades. In honor of her amazing legacy to Illinois students, we are featuring her fund this school year.

Please join me in donating. Our goal is to reach the \$25,000 endowment level this school year! Once endowed at the \$25,000 level, OMSA we'll be able to offer a deserving student a \$1000 scholarship annually in Greta's name for perpetuity. What a wonderful tribute to Greta's legacy. Please give today.



13%



NEWS BITES

In this section, catch up on quick highlights and updates from all across the OMSA! Have an update to share? Reach out to us at: omsasocial@illinois.edu!

TRIO SSS MENTORING PROGRAM

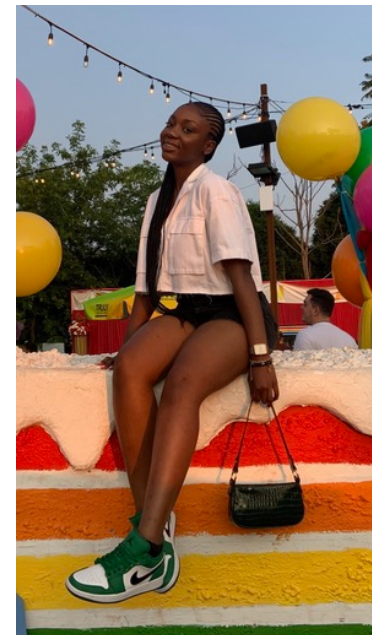
This fall semester, TRIO Student Support Services started a peer mentoring program for our SSS participants. We inaugurated the program with an informational meeting requesting volunteers to serve as mentors. SSS sophomores, juniors, and seniors were paired with mentees, either new freshmen or new transfer students.

We envision mentors using their campus knowledge and academic experience to help their mentees develop strategies for navigating the University and sharing techniques that lead to success in college.

Participants are encouraged to connect with each other regularly, whether via email, phone, or in-person meetings. As a follow up, SSS staff held a Zoom meeting with mentors to check in on their progress, get updates, and provide feedback.



Jesus Chavez
Soph, DGS



Leonora Asenso
Junior, AHS

To facilitate further interactions among mentors and mentees, SSS staff invited all SSS students to attend the cultural event, Native Gardens at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Mentors and mentees received a special invitation to attend. We are planning more cultural events, workshops, and other fun activities for SSS participants and the mentees and mentors to spend more time together.

OMSA PERSISTENCE AND GRADUATION RATE COMPARISON DASHBOARD

The Office of Minority Student Affairs released a new tool to explore 3rd term persistence and 4-year and 6-year graduation rates. This tool offers a unique look at OMSA student outcomes and offers a look into one dimension of the experiences of our students.

Through the use of Tableau, the OMSA Interactive Annual Report allows for **real-time filtering and sorting of data to provide relevant information.**

In the report you can:

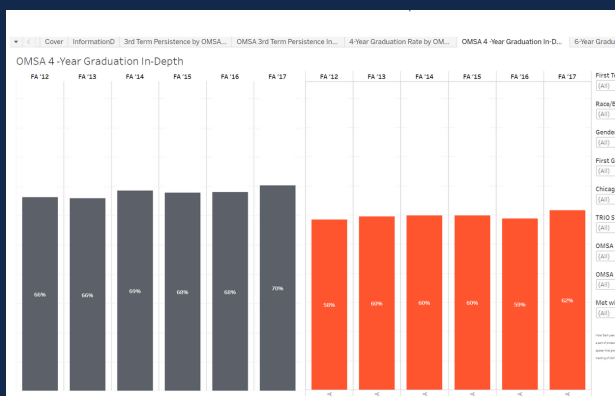
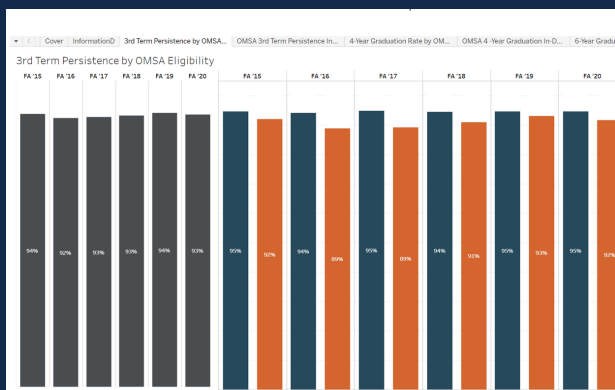
- Explore how participating in OMSA services like tutoring and A&M Mentoring affects student level outcomes
- Understand how different student attributes contribute to persistence and graduation rates
- See how students in different colleges perform.

Visit

<https://www.omsa.illinois.edu/resources/publications/comparison-data/>

to explore the comparison dashboard today!

OMSA PERSISTENCE AND GRADUATION RATE COMPARISON DASHBOARD



2021-2022 OMSA & BAN SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS

This year, the OMSA is proud to announce 14 recipients across 6 scholarship funds, with awards totaling over \$14,000. This includes our new scholarship fund, the Wanda Young Wilson Leadership Scholarship. Congratulations to all our recipients!

The Clarence Shelley Scholarship



David Castillo | Junior, ACES

I grew up in a neighborhood where I typically see stray animals and many of them needed help, whether it was because they needed food, or they were ill. What this scholarship means to me is that it's giving me opportunity to continue pursuing my career goals and to be able to use this opportunity so that I may provide wellbeing to other animals in the near future.

Alexandra Cordoba | Sophomore, LAS

I come from a family that although may struggle, always figures things out. I have been able to keep my head up and focus on school thanks to my parents. My parents work hard every single day to make sure I don't have to worry about anything besides working hard in school to achieve my goals and dreams. Receiving this scholarship will only help me further my education. It will also help me by not having to worry that I will have to suddenly start to slack in school to work long hours, only to be able to continue my education. I want to be someone, I want to help others, I want to continue my education.



Courtney Dillon | Freshman, LAS



I am currently a first-year student studying English and Political Science in the college of Liberal Arts and Sciences and pursuing pre-law advising. In the future, I plan to attend law school and become a civil rights or immigration attorney in order to help serve underrepresented communities. I am the first in my family to attend college and receiving the Shelley Student Success Scholarship will lift some of the financial burden off my family.

Alisha Patel | Senior, LAS

My name is Alisha Patel. I am a senior majoring in Molecular and Cellular Biology. Some of my hobbies or interests are reading, scrapbooking, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. I plan on going to Dental School to become a General Dentist with a DDS. In the future, I might go back to complete my residency to become an Orthodontist. This scholarship will make a big difference in my education by helping me pay for my college expenses, allow me to explore other career opportunities in the field of Dentistry, and help me become more independent.





German Zermeno | Junior, ACES

Hello my name is German Zermeno, I am a first-generation Mexican student pursuing a bachelor's in Animal Sciences with a pre-veterinary medicine concentration. Having received the Shelley Student Success Scholarship, to me means there are no boundaries. The only boundaries that exist are those that we create. My career goal is to become a veterinarian and provide care to pets in impoverished areas.

Greta Hogan Student Persistence Scholarship

Hadja Diallo | Junior, LAS

I am a current senior majoring in Global Studies with a concentration in Global Health. I plan to be a nurse for my future career plans. This scholarship means a lot to me just because of the service Greta Hogan did for minorities like myself. OMSA has helped me through a lot since my freshmen year and made my transition easier. I want to thank the donors for allowing students as myself to continue to thrive at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Also being able to utilize the skills we have been taught to educate and promote others.



Helping Others Prosper through Education (H.O.P.E.) Scholarship



Cory Hoggins | Junior, BUS

This scholarship will allow me to continue to focus on my studies while at UIUC. I am a currently a junior transfer student and I could not be happier about going to school at UIUC. My major is Strategic Business Development and Entrepreneurship and I love my field. My future plans include finishing my four years in college and getting a job in my field. I am very interested in renovating and renting out apartments and other properties. Since my freshman year of college, I have been flirting with that idea. I am interested in running my own business as well. Thank you so much again!

Lynne Pavletic | Senior, LAS

Hello everyone, I am a Senior studying Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB) with plans of attending Physician Associate (PA) school after graduation. I am incredibly grateful to have been chosen as a recipient of the H.O.P.E Scholarship because it will help me afford to apply to PA school. This scholarship has truly helped me reach my dreams of improving health care in struggling & marginalized communities similar to the one I grew up in.



Officer Diane and Ann Moore Scholarship



Chelsea Cobb | Junior, AHS

I am currently looking to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner in the near future. I plan to apply to graduate-entry Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs in order to take the next steps towards making my dream a reality. It is an honor to be a recipient of the Officer Diane and Ann Moore Scholarship, and I am looking forward to expanding on my skill sets as I prepare for the next stages of my academic and professional career.

Gloria-Marianna Escobar | Junior, ACES

I am a junior at the University of Illinois majoring in Human Family Development Studies and minoring in Legal Studies. I plan to attend law school after graduating from the University of Illinois in the Spring 2023. I want to become a family attorney. I am grateful for receiving this scholarship to which I will be using to pay for my LSAT exam that I will take during the Fall 2022 school year.



David Medina | Junior, ENG

My story up until this point has been possible to all the connections I've made. Whether that's the TRIO UBMS program at NEIU or my supportive teachers in high school, I'm always looking for a way to give back and make those who've helped me proud. Now, this scholarship is also part of my journey in earning my degree and beyond. For the future, I'm looking to continue to expand my research experience and find a concentration within the ECE department. The scholarship awarded will give me a peace of mind financially and allow me to focus on my academics.

Jacinda Sotelo | Junior, LAS

I am an undergraduate student majoring in Clinical Psychology and minoring in Criminology and Law. I hope to work with mental health facilities to invoke understanding and improve the overall quality of life for individuals suffering from mental health disorders. I want to thank you for your generosity and for your commitment to OMSA students.



Michael L Jeffries & Mrs. Gayle Jeffries and Friends-OMSA High Achievement Scholarship

Kayla Baldwin | Junior, FAA



I am a Sophomore from Chicago, IL with a passion for community service and educating others about our built environment. This scholarship significantly lessens the financial strain on my family, allowing me to focus solely on my studies. My plans are to continue with my undergraduate studies in Urban & Regional Planning and pursue the 4+1 program to also earn my Master's in Planning, here at Illinois.

Wanda Young Wilson Leadership Scholarship

Zyniah Hamilton | Junior, MEDIA

I would like to say thank you so much, and I am so honored to be selected to receive this scholarship! In my free time I love acting, photography, and listening to music. My favorite genre of music is R&B (especially from the 90's), and my favorite film genre is comedy/drama. My future plans are: finishing school, starting my acting career, and continuing to make sure there is good representation in the media for people of color. With this scholarship, I feel like I can do just that!



Black Alumni Network Scholarships

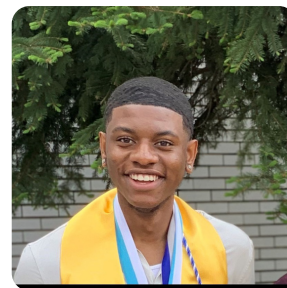
The OMSA is also proud to partner with the University of Illinois Black Alumni Network to offer even more scholarship opportunities to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors of the African American background. All of these outstanding students are current, full-time students and have strong academic records. Congratulations to the Black Alumni Network and these outstanding students!



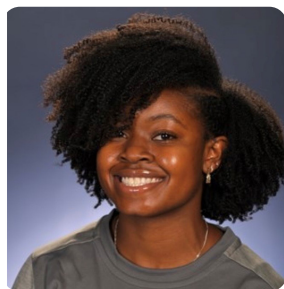
Tiatia Aluka | Soph, BUS
BAN Scholarship



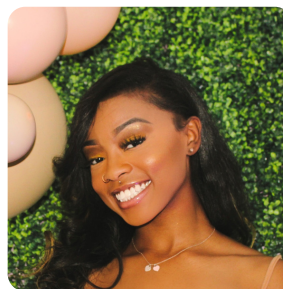
Emmanuella Nwokenkwo |
Jr, Bus
BAN Scholarship



Tyrese Packer | Jr, BUS
BAN Scholarship



Gift Pendleton | Sr, LAS
BAN Scholarship



Ryan Whitaker-Cook | Sr, BUS
BAN Scholarship



Omolabake Oyetayo | Sr, LAS
Ashley Walls Leadership
Award



Samaria Harris | Soph, AHS
Zebralter Medical Foundation
Award



Kyle Semper | Jr, LAS
Zebralter Medical Foundation
Award

ASC UPDATES: NEW STAFF AND NEW FRIENDS



On Monday, November 8, 2021, Shawn Hampton transitioned from serving as an OMSA graduate mentor (GM) to serving as our newest Student Success advisor (SSA). Shawn comes to us with a Master in Business Administration from the Urbana campus. He is also currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Policy, Organization and Leadership with a concentration in Diversity and Equity also from the Urbana campus. Shawn has been working in the field of higher education access and retention since 2017. Prior to his work on the Urbana campus, Shawn spent close to nine years serving as a mentor within various community agencies. Shawn also serves as an academic learning liaison within the

Urbana High School Athletics. As a result, Shawn has extensive experience at multiple levels with early alert initiatives, advising and counseling college level students with a specific focus on undeclared students and student athletes as well as implementing strategies that go towards enhancing engagement and improving academic.

In OMSA, Shawn will join Jazmine and Haro in serving as the direct supervisor for a cohort of our graduate mentors (GMs). Shawn will also maintain systematic and frequent contact with assigned students, assist students in understanding and negotiating the academic rules and regulations that govern academic eligibility, progress, and successful degree completion, assist with career planning, assist with developing, implementing and/or participating in various outreach activities, assist with building, fostering and maintaining intentional relationships with relevant campus departments, units and/or colleges and assist with providing administrative support through assisting in general administrative planning and resource allocation.

Once again, please join us in welcoming Shawn to the OMSA!

BUILDING CONNECTIONS!

As we know, the pandemic has meant grave losses and working through a variety of angst and recovery practices. It has also given way to a reawakening. Although we have returned to some standard routines, working remotely opened our eyes to a world of possibilities. With these possibilities, the OMSA on Oregon team has re-envisioned systems and processes, solidified collaborations and co-produced new pathways for student success! From welcoming students using YouTube, to streaming tips on starting strong to collaborating with campus partners to strengthen the college experience for our first-generation students to creating personal appeals, the OMSA on Oregon came back reinvigorated and ready to serve!

The only thing left to say is I.L.L...!

I'D LIKE TO MEET WITH YOU!



JAZMINE THOMPSON
Student Success Advisor,
Advising & Mentoring

" I WORK WITH A GREAT GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT ARE SUPPORTIVE, POSITIVE AND INFLUENTIAL. "

PROUD TO BE First Gen.

NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION DAY CELEBRATION - NOV. 8

NEVADA STREET TAKE OVER 1-3PM
Check in at UMSA to receive a rally sign. Sign all 4 Cultural Center resource tables to be entered for 2 First Gen. Raffle giveaway!

PROUD TO BE FIRST RECEPTION 4-5PM
Levin Faculty Center 3rd Floor

Native American House: Giant Jenga, Giant Connect 4, Cards for Decolonization
Asian American Cultural Center: First Gen. Photo Booth a Reflection Activity
Bruce B. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center: Marshmallow Tower Challenge
La Casa Cultural Latina: Lotería

** activities pending weather. We will move indoors in the event of inclement conditions. **



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

F.O.C.U.S.

Fostering Opportunity, Community, and Unwavering Support for Underrepresented First-Generation Students

OMSA OBSERVES NATIONAL TUTOR APPRECIATION WEEK AND GOOD IDEAS KEEP PERCOLATING

When you supervise a large staff of tutors who are always willing to do more than what is expected of them, you are constantly trying to find ways to acknowledge their hard work and dedication. This is something that often comes up in discussions in meetings of the Illinois Learning Support Professionals (an ad hoc group of learning center supervisors at the University of Illinois).

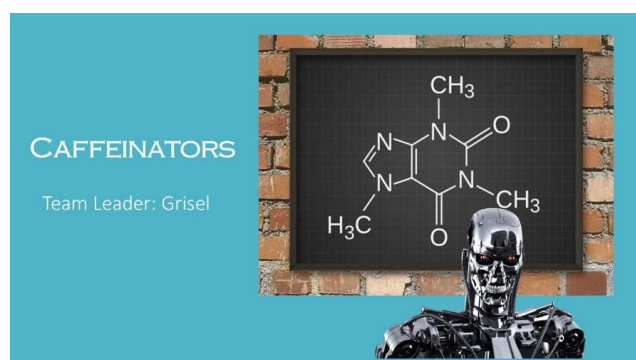
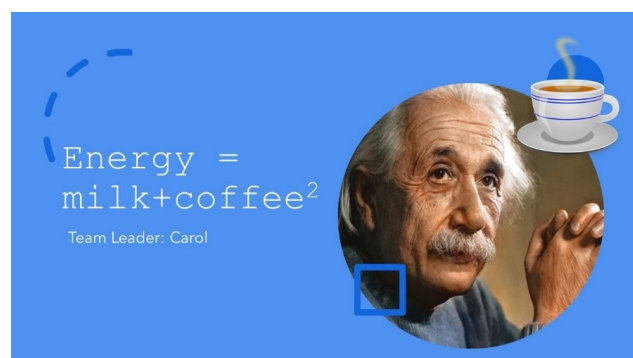
Consequently, in 2015, the OMSA tutoring program along with some of the other tutoring centers on campus, began celebrating National Tutoring Appreciation Week (NTAW) to recognize and thank our tutors for everything they do to provide a needed service for college freshmen. National Tutoring Appreciation Week is the first full week in October. In past years, we have solicited proclamations from the mayors of Champaign and Urbana and also from the Chancellor's office. In observing NTAW, we have hosted open houses and other events to introduce students and staff to our tutoring centers and all the services we offer.

This year, we were especially excited to celebrate our tutors after a difficult year and a half of working remotely. Our five Tutor Coordinators (Gabriela Abril, Nevers Mushimata, Grisel Lopez-Alvarez, Victoria Vargas-Castro, and Carol Lipari) were in charge of coming up with ideas for our celebration this year. One of the ideas they suggested was to present each tutor with a thank-you mug filled with treats. The mug seemed to be especially appropriate since we had already decided that we would be launching the OMSA coffee cart during NTAW.



OMSA OBSERVES NATIONAL TUTOR APPRECIATION WEEK AND GOOD IDEAS KEEP PERCOLATING CONT.

The OMSA coffee cart was an idea that came up a couple of years ago: we bought a 45-cup coffee urn and supplies to provide coffee in the Academic Services Center so that our tutors and students wouldn't have to spend their money at the Starbucks around the corner. We only got to use the coffee urn a few times before we switched to working from home – so, we were eager to revive the coffee cart this fall.



This semester our tutoring staff were split up into 5 teams with a Tutor Coordinator leading each of the teams. To keep the coffee theme going, they all had coffee-related team names: Living La Vida Mocha, Coffee Mates, Caffeinators, and Espresso Your Knowledge.

In addition to getting mugs for the tutors we also held a get-together on October 6 with pizza and a college life-themed Pictionary game. There were 3 prize winners in the Pictionary contest: Malika Basu, Natalie Budzyn, and Lynne Pavletic.



OMSA AMBASSADORS SPOTLIGHT

The OMSA Ambassadors are a group of student leaders within the OMSA that advise the Director and work with Academic Outreach Advisor Brian Becker to host events, workshops and other activities to build community amongst OMSA Students. This semester, we would like to spotlight OMSA Ambassador President, Isaiah Williams.



U of I has been an amazing experience for me! I transferred twice before I came here and UIUC is the first school that's really felt like home. The resources that have been available to me and organizations I've been apart of have helped me grow and develop into a better leader. I've made and am still building great relationships with people that inspire and encourage me to keep moving forward.

Isaiah Williams is a Senior in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Isaiah has served as President of the OMSA Ambassadors since Fall 2020.



TRIO IS RECRUITING!

Three of the OMSA's TRIO programs are currently recruiting students! Both our pre-college programs, TRIO Talent Search and TRIO Upward Bound, and our TRIO McNair Scholars Program are seeking new students to participate beginning immediately.

TRIO McNair Scholars

Are you a First Generation or low income UIUC student planning on attending graduate school? Find more information about the McNair Scholars at go.illinois.edu/McNairApp! Call 217-265-4692 or email triomcnair@illinois.edu with any questions.

TRIO Talent Search

Serving 500 middle and high school students in Champaign, Urbana, and Decatur, TRIO Talent Search relies on community and family partnerships to create and sustain academic culture leading to graduation and collegiate success. View the application at go.illinois.edu/TSapp. Email triotalentsearch@illinois.edu for more information.

TRIO Upward Bound

Upward Bound is committed to providing our Centennial, Central, and Urbana High School students with high quality academic, cultural, and career related activities designed to prepare and equip them to successfully complete high school, enroll in an accredited post-secondary institution and obtain a baccalaureate degree. Apply at go.illinois.edu/UBapp and email trioupwardbound@illinois.edu for more info!

A promotional poster for McNair 2021 applications. The background is orange. It features the University of Illinois logo on the left. The text reads: "The McNair 2021 Applications are OPEN! ELIGIBLE STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY". Below this, it says "IS NOW Enrollment" in large, stylized letters, with "BECOME A MCNAIR SCHOLAR" to the right. At the bottom, it states "Deadline: Friday, November 19th, 2021" and provides the URL "https://go.illinois.edu/mcnair2021app".



Office of Minority Student Affairs

610 E. John St., Suite 130
Champaign, IL 61820
217.333.0054
omsa@illinois.edu

OMSA Academic Services Center

1103 W. Oregon St., Suite E
Urbana, IL 61801
217.333.7547
omsa-asc@illinois.edu

 @OMSAillinois

 @OMSAillinois

 @OMSAillinois