

## 2017 REINHOLD NIEBUHR AWARD

The Reinhold Niebuhr award honors a faculty member or administrator whose body of academic work and life promote or exemplify social justice. This year's winner devotes her research and teaching to understanding the social, cultural, and philosophical contexts of American education. Her scholarship highlights the voices of youth, particularly those from underserved groups, as they engage with privilege, power, and race in urban, public schools. Her publications, many of them co-authored with Notre Dame colleagues, include "Forms of Voice: Exploring the Empowerment of Youth at the Intersection of Art and Action" in the journal *Urban Review*, and "A Critical Geographic Approach to Youth Civic Engagement: Reframing Educational Opportunity Zones and the Use of Public Spaces" in the journal *Urban Education*. Her 2014 TEDxUND talk titled "Connecting the Dots: Caring Education, Joyful Learning, and Human Integrity" calls on educators to create spaces where students and teachers can realize the joy and passion critical to learning, exploring, and creating. The senior associate director of Notre Dame's Education, Schooling, and Society program, she also serves on the board of directors for the Robinson Community Learning Center and Good Shepherd Montessori School.

The University of Notre Dame is proud to present the 2017 Reinhold Niebuhr Award to

**Maria K. McKenna**

*Associate Professor of the Practice*

*Education, Schooling, and Society Program and Department of Africana Studies*