



T.E.A.C.H. TALK

August-September 2018



What's New

Deb Cassidy Leadership Award Recipients Announced

By Rosemarie Vardell

“Dr. Deborah ‘Deb’ Cassidy was a lifelong advocate for improving the lives of children by focusing on the early education workforce. She knew that in order for our youngest children to flourish, they had to be taught by individuals who understand the impact of the early years, are highly educated, are fairly compensated and are recognized for the professionals that they are. While her death left a hole for many in the early childhood field, she built a foundation for us to carry on and this includes the creation of the UNC-G Leadership Award which will recognize those students who are advocates for all children, and will be the future leaders in our communities. Deb gave such energy to those around her, whether as co-workers, colleagues or students in her classes. Students such as those who are recognized with this award, are the way that we make sure that her legacy continues.

This award is given to recognize, reward and encourage demonstrated leadership in promoting educational equity and fairness for all young children by ensuring that teachers are well educated and compensated and culturally responsive to children and families. Students who carry out their work collaboratively; are inclusive; show integrity; are persistent; take risks and incorporate social change are excellent candidates for this award.”

—Anna Carter, Director, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education

Two graduating students from UNC-Greensboro’s MEd Birth to Kindergarten Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development program with a concentration in Leadership and Program Administration were given this award by a subcommittee of the UNCG BK Graduate Committee. The 207-2018 award winners are:

Kimberly Scott, NC Pre-K Classroom Teacher, Monticello-Brown Summit Elementary School, Brown Summit, NC, Spring 2018 UNC-G MEd Graduate, T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Recipient

Kim’s final internship project focused on social-emotional development and instruction based on research that African American and Latino children were more likely to lose instructional time due to perceived problem behaviors. Her project targeted the classroom level (working with children and modeling for teachers) and teachers (in a Professional Learning Community) to address inequities and positive interactions. Her internship earned her a leadership role at her school to lead efforts to integrate a social-emotional curriculum school-wide. In her leadership essay Kim wrote:



“In my opinion, an early childhood leader should display the following qualities: Being an effective communicator, being open to feedback, and being consistent in decision making for the organization she/he is leading. Advocating for young children and their families is something that has always been prevalent in my life and I am excited to be able to take all this new learned knowledge and be a true leader in my classroom, community, and organization while applying it to my everyday practices.”

Kim learned the importance of self-reflection and journaling and taking time for personal renewal to avoid burnout and approach challenges with a fresh mind. She is a strong advocate for social justice and supporting all children in their social and emotional development.

Cynthia Owen, Program Administrator New Testament Baptist Church Child Care Program, Monroe, NC, 2018 UNC-G MEd Graduate, T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Recipient



Cynthia’s final internship project addressed teacher turnover, drawing heavily on Deb Cassidy’s (et al.) 2011 article on why teachers leave their positions. She proposed to help her community (Union County) gain a better understanding of the reasons for turnover and possible solutions to address the issue. She compiled teacher turnover data and interviewed directors in her community, led planning and implementation of a forum to address teacher turnover in their area, and seems to have laid the groundwork for efforts to address compensation and turnover in her community. In her essay on leadership, Cynthia wrote:

“As a director of a child care center, I must recruit and mentor teachers that are passionate about teaching, that are educated and trained in the field, that have an intentionally arranged and supplied classroom, as well as a clean, safe and happy environment for the child to learn and development. Helping those same teachers understand that schedules and routines in an early childhood setting are important because they make the child secure and helps him learn how to function socially within the classroom setting. The most important thing a teacher needs to know about a child is his way of learning and looking at the world – this will involve his cultural background, his level of development and his personality. We need to get to know the children we teach.”

Cynthia views leadership as a servant position and highlights three of Maurice Sykes’s leadership qualities (2014) as valuable: competence, fun and enjoyment, and personal renewal. As a leader, she sees herself as a mentor for teachers in order to make an impact on children and the field of early education.

What's New

NC Promise Tuition Plan

- Reduces total cost of tuition starting with the Fall 2018 semester
- Available through Western Carolina University, UNC- Pembroke, and Elizabeth City State University
- No eligibility requirements
- Reduced rates will be prorated for part-time students
- Plan does not apply to graduate students
- Go to ncpromise.com for more information

Facility Spotlight

Families First in Cabarrus County operates three immersion preschools and other family support programs designed to strengthen the whole family. Interestingly, the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program is strengthening our whole organization in ways we did not expect. Children imagine they can do anything, be anywhere, be anything, and accomplish everything - this is the impact the T.E.A.C.H. program has had on our organization. Yes, we are delivering a higher quality education with teachers in school, but there is more to this story. Life for our teachers can at



times and at best, be difficult. They need support.

A few years back, we hired some moms as floaters and teacher assistants. These moms were participating in our support programs and we encouraged and sponsored all to enroll in the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program. Unlike children, they could not imagine anymore that this was possible. Now they are in school and adding knowledge to their gifts and passions working with families and children. Additionally, we had no idea some were beating depression, finding purpose, realizing lost dreams, and rediscovering hope because of the T.E.A.C.H. program. We educate, empower and equip our families and their children. That's what the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program has done for our organization.

--Spencer Swain, Executive Director

Semester Reminders

- Submit grade reports at the end of each semester. If you have graduated, a copy of your degree or final transcript will be needed.
- Update your username and/or password for your online portal with a T.E.A.C.H. counselor if it has changed.
- Contact a T.E.A.C.H. counselor if you need an adjusted/renewal contract or contract addendum for the Fall 2018 semester.
- Send in a copy of your class schedule and contract addendum to request your Fall 2018 stipend. **(T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Associate Scholars model Only)**
- Pre-Authorization Request forms must be submitted if you need a charge authorization sent for your tuition and/or books. **(Not applicable to recipients of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Associate Scholars model)**
- Reimbursements for tuition and/or books must come in with receipts attached to be processed.
- Sponsoring centers, submit Release Time Claim Forms for your eligible employees.
- Remember that reimbursements, bonuses and stipends can take 8-12 weeks to be mailed out.
- Make sure that T.E.A.C.H. and/or college invoices are paid in a timely manner. Past due invoices will affect future scholarship activity.
- Contact T.E.A.C.H. within 10 days of any employment changes.
- Encourage scholarship recipient(s) to return all phone calls/emails from their T.E.A.C.H. scholarship counselor.

Did you know?

- Fayetteville State University's Birth through Kindergarten teaching and non-teaching programs in the Department of Elementary Education earned national accreditation in 2018 from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Higher Education Accreditation Commission.
- Students at Fayetteville State University can choose from teaching and non-teaching degree programs as well as their Birth-Kindergarten Non-Teaching online program which may be more suitable to those students that do not need licensure but need the flexibility of an online degree program.
- The contact number for these programs at Fayetteville State University is 910-672-1538. The Department Chair is Dr. Priscilla Manarino-Leggett and the Assistant Chair is Dr. Tanya Hudson.

Recipient Spotlight

My name is Cristian Arboleda Escobar. I am from Cali, Colombia. I have a bachelor's degree in elementary education with an emphasis in technology, I also have a specialization in child pedagogy from the Universidad Santiago de Cali in Columbia. I live in Raleigh, NC, and work as a lead teacher in Maracas Montessori with children 3 and 6 years old; I love working with children at these ages because they have the best disposition to learn, imagine, create, socialize and enjoy the simplest things.

I arrived in the U.S. 4 years ago with the purpose of acquiring and improving my work as a teacher, contributing positively in the development of the children through teaching a second language (Spanish). Living in a different country is a new experience, and facing a

new culture and language is a significant challenge.

The T.E.A.C.H. program has been a great support in this new adventure. It has given me the opportunity to study and learn new teaching strategies that I can apply in my class, allowing me to learn a lot of pedagogy and most importantly improve my English skills. I hope to continue learning and counting on the support of the T.E.A.C.H. program.



Congratulations & Acknowledgments

This section is dedicated to our Spring and Summer 2018 graduates. What you have accomplished is no small task. We are so proud of you. Take a bow!

Associate Degree Graduates

Michelle Beguin
Patricia Bray
Vanessa Carr
Ashley Curry
Andrea Edmonds
Julia Hall
Tyra Kennedy
Kimberly Krepps
Christina McKeiver
Naima Taylor
Tinicha Whaley
Linda Wingate
Emily Young

Bachelor's Degree Graduates

Nicole Byrd
Krista Hollyfield
Carina Hoover
LaShonda McClendon Cathey
Mills
Lelonna Richardson
Rhonda Sturdivant
Karen Wall

CDA Certificate Holders

Maria Ayala
Chardea Jenkins
Setericka Kennon

CDA Certificate Holders (cont.)

Demetrice Moye
Lauren Thomforde
Gabrielle Vince

Master's Degree Graduates

Melissa Brinkley
Whitley Dozier
Vanessa Gilliam
Hanan Nejar
Cynthia Owen
Kimberly Scott
Janaki Shetty
Stephanie Watts

Please note that the recipients recognized here have provided documentation showing proof of their certificate or degree prior to the date of publication. If you received your certificate or degree in Spring or Summer 2018 and your name was not listed, please submit documentation as soon as possible and we will recognize you in the next issue of T.E.A.C.H. Talk.

T.E.A.C.H. NC Team Member Spotlight

Manager: Kimberly Bynum

Position: Scholarship Manager

Education

- Bachelor Degree in Child Development & Family Relations, North Carolina Central University (1997)
- Masters of Science in Human Sciences, North Carolina Central University (2000)

Experience in the Classroom: 3 years

Years with T.E.A.C.H.: 19

Primary Counselor For

- Master Degree Scholarship Emphasis in Early Childhood Leadership and Management
- Pre-School Add On Licensure
- Leadership in Infant and Toddler Learning Certificate Scholarship



Meet Your T.E.A.C.H. NC Team!

Marsha Baldwin
Scholarship Counselor II

Schquita Battle
Outreach Coordinator

Mildrienne Best
Scholarship Counselor III

Kimberly Bynum
Scholarship Manager

Edith Locke
Division Vice President

Danisha Devane
Sr. Administrative Assistant

Amy Duffy
Program Manager

Monica Livingston
Administrative Assistant II

Pam McGowan
Scholarship Counselor III

Tomonica Rice-Yarborough
Scholarship Counselor II

Kathy Thornton
Scholarship Counselor III

Cindy Villani
Scholarship Counselor II



United Way
of the Greater Triangle
Certified Community Impact Partner



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® North Carolina
Scholarship Program
PO Box 231 Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Phone: 919-967-3272 Fax: 919-967-7040