



# T.E.A.C.H. TALK

## October-December 2019



### Voices from North Carolina

“Voices from North Carolina” features what you and your peers are saying about topics related to the field. Each edition contains quotes from around NC about the importance of formal education and its effects on early care and education. The following is an excerpt from the results of the NAEYC and EdTrust focus group collaborations held in 2018.

During fall 2018, Ed Trust and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) collaborated to study how the impact of increasing educational requirements and professionalizing the workforce directly affected early childhood educators of color. Ed Trust conducted focus groups with 50 early childhood educators of color in New Jersey, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. These states were selected because they made statewide policy changes regarding education qualifications and requirements. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® North Carolina invited current and past scholarship recipients of color to participate in focus groups in Durham and Greensboro, NC.

Ed Trust looked to center the voices of early childhood educators of color in answering the following questions:

- How do early childhood educators of color perceive policies that raise the educational requirements they have to reach to keep jobs?
- In what ways, if any, has the implementation of these policies impacted the career trajectories of early childhood educators of color?
- What advice do early childhood educators of color who have “lived through” these policy changes have for policymakers and leaders heading toward similar change?

To read the complete report, “Increasing Qualifications, Centering Equity: Experience and Advice from Early Childhood Educators of Color,” visit NAEYC’s website at [www.naeyc.org/resources/blog/increasing-qualifications-centering-equity](http://www.naeyc.org/resources/blog/increasing-qualifications-centering-equity).

### Did You Know?

- The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship Program only pays the in-state tuition rate and related fees for approved courses.
- Before enrolling in classes, it is important to verify your residency status at your college.
- If you have not been a NC resident for at least one year, you may be able to waive out of state tuition through employer sponsorships. Check with your college for more information.
- If an employer sponsorship is approved by your college and your employer has to pay for tuition, the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship can reimburse employers for approved courses taken by T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipients they are sponsoring at the in-state tuition rate. Be sure to send in the Pre-Authorization Request Form before registering and a Form B and receipts after registration.
- Be advised that due to federal regulations, DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students are not eligible for in-state tuition rate regardless of employer sponsorship or scholarship eligibility.
- Did you know Durham Tech’s early childhood non-transferrable degree is fully online?
- Any more questions? Call your counselor at (919) 967-3272.

### Photos from T.E.A.C.H. NC Staff Spirit Week



Hat Day



Wacky Tacky Day



College Team Day

## Facility Spotlight



First Baptist Children's of Marion is located in the western part of North Carolina. The center has been in operation since 1966 as the first officially licensed child care in McDowell County. First Baptist Children's Center is a five-star center that serves children ages 3-11, including an NC Pre-K classroom and school-age care.

The center currently has five employees enrolled in the scholarship program. Within the past six years of being enrolled in

T.E.A.C.H., Center Director Mary Lewis has completed an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education and is scheduled to graduate with her BA in Birth-Kindergarten in December 2019. There are three lead teachers currently pursuing a BA in Birth-Kindergarten as well as one lead teacher that is enrolled in an associate program.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® has given the employees an opportunity that is priceless, not only for the employees but also for the families served by First Baptist Church Children's Center. The quality of early education has improved in our center. The increased education obtained by the director allowed First Baptist Church Children's Center to become one of two private centers to offer NC Pre-K to the community.

## A Note from T.E.A.C.H. Staff

We would like to thank our recipients, sponsoring employers and higher education partners for making T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®NC a success for our workforce. We continue to support early care and education professionals in increasing education, increasing compensation, professionalizing itself, increasing education in and out of the classroom and encouraging systematic and positive change in our field. Here are a few highlights from last fiscal year:

- 2,127 scholarships awarded to 2,106 participants
- 929 sponsoring employers
- 74 NC colleges/universities attended by participants
- 58,520 children impacted
- Average number of credits completed: 14
- Average increase in earnings: 9%
- Average turnover rate: 9%
- 99.5% of sponsoring employers would recommend T.E.A.C.H.
- 99.7% of scholarship recipients would recommend T.E.A.C.H.

"Increasing my education through a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship has increased my compensation. This has helped me with my finances and has given me extra money for my family. Having the support of my center and the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship has helped me in my educational journey." --Teacher, associate degree program, Cumberland Co.

"I am an owner/director of a child care program and have been participating on the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship program for three years. I am really grateful that T.E.A.C.H. allowed the grant to help with college expenses. It helped me to advance my education without being in a struggle or worrying about funds to pay for my books and helped with my gas for traveling to school. T.E.A.C.H. helped my staff to further their education also. This is a really excellent program and has helped prepare us to be better teachers, better role models, better leaders and better parents." --Owner/Director, Anson County

## Higher Education Spotlight

**Students attending Stanly Community College can now charge their textbooks to T.E.A.C.H.**

We would like to acknowledge the Early Childhood department and administrative staff at Stanly Community College on their great effort to support students on the T.E.A.C.H. program. As stated in the last edition of *T.E.A.C.H. Talk*, recipients attending Stanly could not charge T.E.A.C.H. for their textbooks. The staff at Stanly recognized the hardship that some students faced with the change and were able to make arrangements with the bookstore to continue the textbook authorizations.

**Stanly Community College offers a Google Chrome add-on in Spanish**

The Google Chrome add-on converts all web page content into Spanish. Students have the option to change the language in closed captioning to Spanish for videos as well. Students can complete their assignments in Spanish but they will need to translate their work back into English to be graded by instructors. Stanly Community College will continue to work on finding a better solution for allowing students to submit in Spanish.

## Save the Date

**2020 ASK Conference  
Coming Saturday, February 22, 2020**

Keynote Speaker Announced!  
Ron Mohl, Lead Educational Presenter  
Lakeshore Learning Materials

The 2020 ASK Conference brochure will be available online in October and delivered to your mailbox soon.

## What's New?

**T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® North Carolina Early Childhood Certificate Scholarship Program**

This comprehensive scholarship is specifically designed to support Infant-Toddler and Preschool attainment. This scholarship model is for any teacher, director or home provider who would like to enroll in coursework toward an Early Childhood Certificate at a North Carolina community college and who is employed full-time (30 hours/week minimum) in a licensed child care facility. Applicants must have already completed EDU 119.

## Semester Reminders

- Submit unofficial transcripts at the end of each semester. If you have graduated or received certification, a copy of your degree, certificate or final transcript will be needed.
- If you opted in for submitting your internet permission form please remember to 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.
- Pre-Authorization Request forms need to be submitted if you need a charge authorization sent for your tuition and/or books.
- Make sure your schools identifying information displays on the documents that you are sending from the school. This is especially important for unofficial transcripts and grade reports.
- Tuition and Book Documentation Form (Form B) MUST be accompanied by itemized tuition statements and itemized book receipts (if applicable) every semester regardless of who is the initial payer.
- Remember that reimbursements, bonuses, and stipends can take up to 8-12 weeks to be mailed.
- Sponsoring centers, submit Release Time Claim Forms for your eligible employees.
- Make sure that T.E.A.C.H. and/or college invoices are paid in a timely manner. Past due invoices may affect future scholarship activity.
- Contact T.E.A.C.H. within 10 days of any employment changes.
- Encourage recipient(s) to return all phone calls/emails from their T.E.A.C.H. scholarship counselor.
- Remember response time from T.E.A.C.H. may be 24-48 hrs.
- All W-9s for recipients and sponsoring employers **must be on file** with our office before any payments are released.

## Recipient Spotlight



My name is Eionshafae Pope and I am an Early Headstart Teacher at Guilford Child Development in Greensboro, NC. I am a 44-year-old wife and mother of four beautiful daughters, one grandson and three granddaughters on the way. I have always known the importance of a good education. I have an Associate Degree in Business Administration, my NC Early Childhood Credentials, and I am currently enrolled at Western Carolina University pursuing my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education Birth-Kindergarten.

My dreams of going back to school to get my bachelor's degree is all due to the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship. I started out on T.E.A.C.H. Working Scholars, a stipend-based scholarship. I liked this scholarship, but I found another scholarship model that was much better through T.E.A.C.H. and fit my overall educational goals. The Bachelor Degree scholarship is one of the traditional and comprehensive scholarships. I have always dreamed of being able to go back to college without the added stress of how I would pay and now I have T.E.A.C.H. to thank for this great opportunity. I would love to thank my counselor and the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program for helping me discover all the great scholarship programs they have to offer. I feel that anyone that is interested in becoming an early childhood educator should take advantage of the great opportunities that T.E.A.C.H. has to offer.

## Congratulations and Acknowledgments

This section is dedicated to our Spring and Summer 2019 graduates that have not been recognized previously. What you have accomplished is no small task. We are so proud of you. Take a bow!

### Associate Degree Graduates

Christy Jacobs  
Ashley Loggins  
Samantha Murphy  
Angelia Shipp-King  
Joy Tucker

### Bachelor's Degree Graduates

Carrie McNeill  
Jessica Price

### CDA Certificate Holders

Tamika Atkinson  
Maria Castro  
Tierra Garrett  
Lashana Mason

### Administration Credential Holder

Karma Spann

### Master's Degree Graduates

Jessica Holowell  
Mashekia Raines

*Please note that the recipients recognized in this section have provided documentation showing proof of their certificate or degree prior to the date of publication. If you received your certificate or degree for the Spring 2019 and Summer 2019 semester and your name was not listed above, please send in documentation as soon as possible and we will be sure to recognize you in the next issue of T.E.A.C.H. Talk.*

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

**Name:** Pam McGowan

**Position:** Scholarship Counselor III

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Child Development and Family Relations, Minor Psychology, East Carolina University (1990)

**Experience in the classroom/directing:** 4 years

**Years with T.E.A.C.H.:** 21 years

**Primary Counselor:** Beaufort County Community College, Bladen Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Central Carolina Community College, College of the Albemarle, Edgecombe Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Halifax Community College, Lenoir Community College, Martin Community College, Nash Community College, Roanoke-Chowan Community College, Robeson Community College, Sampson Community College, Southeastern Community College, Surry Community College, Barton College, East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Greensboro College, NC A&T State University, Shaw University, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Pembroke, and UNC-Wilmington



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



*(top to bottom, left to right)*

**Mildrienne Best**, Scholarship Counselor III

**Amy Duffy**, Program Manager

**Edith Locke**, Division Vice President

**Kathy Thornton**, Quality Control Systems Coordinator

**Pam McGowan**, Scholarship Counselor III

**Marsha Baldwin**, Scholarship Counselor II

**Kimberly Bynum**, Program Manager

**Tomonica Rice-Yarborough**, Field-Based Outreach Coordinator

**Christie Warren**, Administrative Assistant II

**Schquita Battle**, Administrative Dept. Manager

**Cindy Villani**, Scholarship Counselor II

**Monica Livingston**, Administrative Assistant II



United Way  
of the Greater Triangle  
Certified Community Impact Partner



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