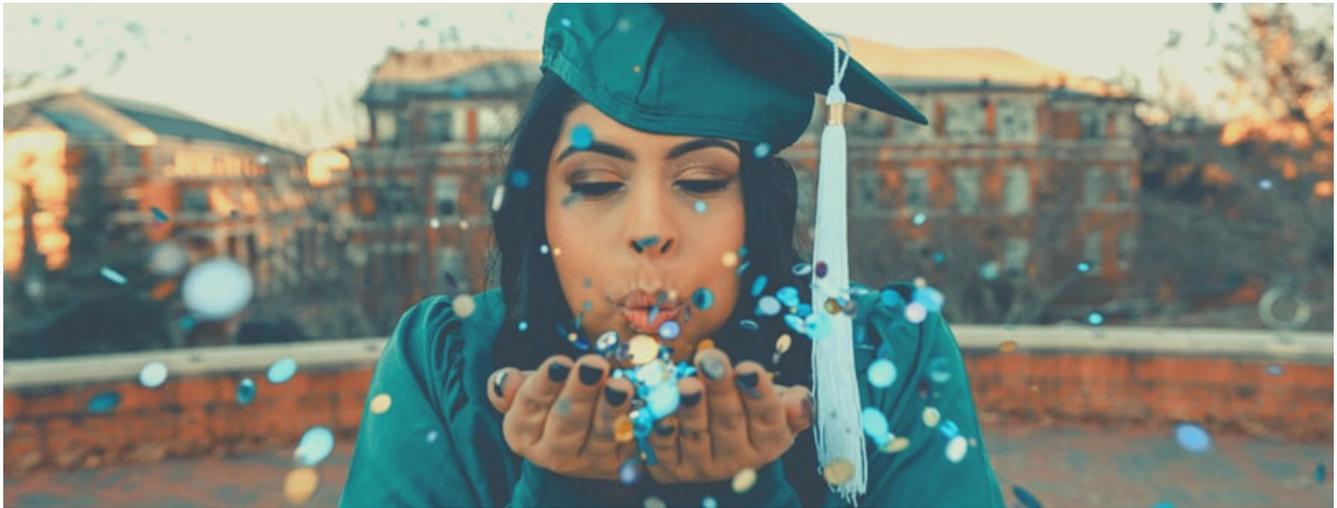


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T.E.A.C.H. TALK

T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD® SCHOLARSHIP NORTH CAROLINA
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



TAKE A PEEK!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE T.E.A.C.H. NC TEAM

While many graduates anticipate crossing the stage at commencement ceremonies, this year's commencement ceremonies had to become virtual. The family and friend graduation celebrations had to occur through social media outlets, or everyone piling into their own car and driving by the graduate's house displaying congratulation posters, balloons and sending congratulatory wishes from a distance, or graduates dancing with joy in celebration of their achievements and posting it on social media.

However you celebrated your graduation, it probably was not at all like you had envisioned when you started your graduation semester. Early care and education professionals are creative and resourceful, so our scholarship recipients put those skills to work in their modified celebrations to give this momentous occasion the attention it deserved. We celebrate with you!

CONGRATS TO RECIPIENTS



"I started my online classes in January with hopes of it being a typical semester as my previous semesters! Everything was good until COVID-19 forced everything to basically shut down. My first fear and thought was 'would I be able to complete and graduate in May?' It seems that life was about to get the best of me because I had daughters home who had to transition to online school work and I began to find myself slipping, allowing my children to get their work done first was more important to me. I began to feel defeated after pushing myself so hard to complete this degree! I took a week to think and get myself together and come up with a plan to make everything work together! I began to set a schedule for my daughters and myself and it all worked out perfect! I'm not just a mom, I'm a wife and a business owner so I had to make some adjustments. I can NOW say, I'm officially a 2020 graduate of the University of Mount Olive! It took faith and a willing mind to push through and go after my goals! COVID-19 didn't stop anything! I'm thankful for the opportunity to have T.E.A.C.H. and I'm grateful for the help!"

— MEKIA ROBERSON, BACHELOR DEGREE GRADUATE
PITT COUNTY

"Hello, my name is Yvette Garner and I am 58 yrs. old. I am employed at Excel Christian Academy, where I am an assistant teacher in the 3-4-year-old classroom. My lifetime goal, was to go back to school and earn my associate degree in Early Childhood Education. I started my journey in 2014 at Alamance Community College. I started with face to face classes in the evening because of my full-time job during the day. The journey became challenging at times, trying to work a full-time job, manage my family and going to school part time. During the pandemic things changed, I had to finish my classes online. I was determined to finish this journey and with the assistance of T.E.A.C.H, I was able to complete my classes without any hardship. I will be forever grateful for the support of T.E.A.C.H."

— YVETTE GARNER, ASSOCIATE DEGREE
GRADUATE
ALAMANCE COUNTY



CONGRATS TO RECIPIENTS

"I would like to thank the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship for offering me the opportunity to earn my M.Ed. in Leadership, Policy, and Advocacy in Early Childhood through UNC-W. Through this support, I was able to refresh and deepen my knowledge as my undergraduate was earned over 20 years ago. I needed new information and new ideas as I continued the work in this field.

I am a technical assistance coach, and felt I needed to learn more about early childhood systems, funding streams, and family and parent engagement strategies across cultures. I was also privileged to do a study abroad last summer to conduct a literacy camp for children in San Pedro, Belize. I could never put into words how my studies, interactions among other students and faculty, and the study abroad gave me a much wider sense of the field, the needs to address, and strategies to conduct my work using evidence-based practices in a culturally sensitive manner while addressing inequities and advocating for better compensation and working conditions for the ECE workforce. As a part of my work, I also assist teachers of young children to create Professional Development Plans and encourage teachers without degrees to continue their formal education. I am able to talk with them firsthand about how easy it is to apply for T.E.A.C.H., connect them to resources, and explain how the process was for me. Young children deserve great teachers and great teachers need investments like T.E.A.C.H. to help them reach their full potential as educators and T.E.A.C.H. gives teachers the pathway to grow more in the field of early childhood education."

— NICOLE MCCASKILL, MATERS DEGREE GRADUATE
GUILFORD COUNTY

"My name is Donna Scott and I work at Beginning Visions Child Development Center. I have worked here for 26 years, which means that I have been in the teaching field for a long time. I LOVE IT!!!! I have been using the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program since I started school. I received my Associate Degree with them and just earned my Bachelor Degree because of T.E.A.C.H. With the help of T.E.A.C.H. I was able to attend online classes at Western Carolina University. COVID-19 was a stressful time and it prevented me from fully completing my action research project, because part of the project was observing a classroom. It also postponed my graduation ceremony, which really upset me but I will be walking the stage in December 2020, and I cannot wait. I would like to thank the T.E.A.C.H. program for giving me the opportunity to obtain the education needed to become a better teacher and I strongly urge anyone that is thinking about going into the teaching field to check it out. It has been a blessing."

— DONNA SCOTT, BACHELOR DEGREE GRADUATE
WAYNE COUNTY

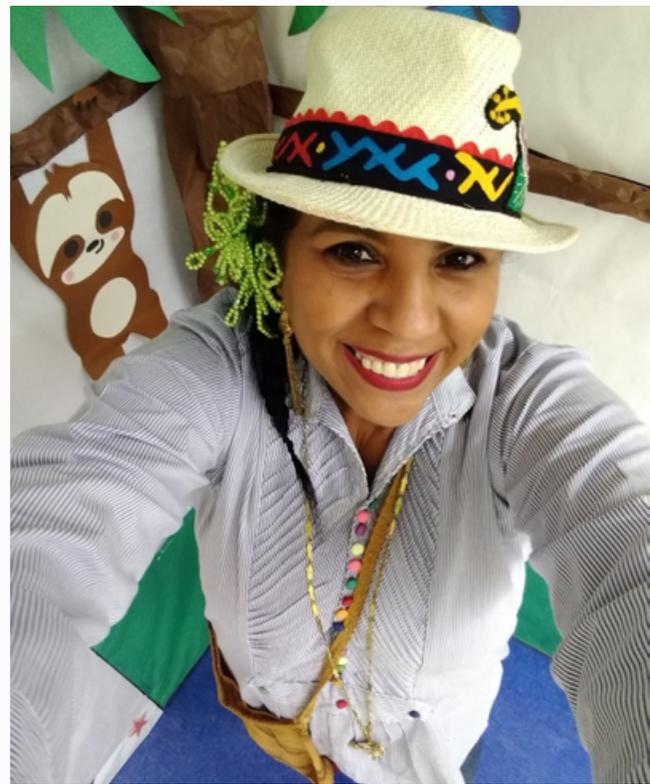


CONGRATS TO RECIPIENTS

"My name is Robin Fuller. I am a proud T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient and just graduated in May from UNC-W with my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education Leadership and Advocacy. Having the support of T.E.A.C.H. through this pandemic has been critical. My scholarship program allowed me to be all online so as the world was frantically switching. I was peacefully finishing my degree and about to graduate. What a blessing that I was already settled with online learning and there were no issues or bumps for me. My TEACH counselors were great with questions and helped me every step of the way. What an amazing program that I am more than pleased to have been part of. It helped me accomplish something I thought I would never accomplish, furthering my education as an adult learner. Wow, was it hard but thanks to you all I did it!!! Thank you!!!"

— ROBIN FULLER, MASTER DEGREE GRADUATE
WAKE COUNTY

"My name is Raquel Carney. I am a native from Panama who wanted to better myself for the children and the families that I served. T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was a blessing for me. Being a student in the time of a global health pandemic was not easy. I had to work long-distance in order to support my students and their families. A member of T.E.A.C.H., Ms. Kimberly Bynum, contacted me by email to let me know that she was there for me if I needed help. Her support was very meaningful to me. The last part of my study was extremely stressful: working online in addition to doing classes, trying my best to keep in touch with family members in Panama and Florida, while also supporting my two children in Chicago and Colorado Springs. It was so intense! Still, having the full support of my friends and loved ones kept me going. T.E.A.C.H.'s words of encouragement made me confident in believing I can accomplish whatever I want and more—that I was so close. Living in America as an immigrant and native Spanish speaker made life a little complicated. And having to learn in an online setting was different from my college years. I went to school having never attended an online class, so I had quite a bit of a learning curve. I had to learn how to navigate, work online, and I had been out of college for over 20 years. Ultimately, I learned that I was the only obstacle in the way of achieving my dreams. The cheerleaders in my corner like T.E.A.C.H., my children, family and my partner made accomplishing this professional and personal goal a reality."



— RAQUEL CARNEY, MASTER DEGREE GRADUATE
DURHAM COUNTY

CONGRATS TO RECIPIENTS

"My name is Natasha Thompson and I graduated from Winston Salem State University this semester! It has been the most incredible experience to gain more knowledge in my field and apply it to my director position. The pandemic put a wrench in getting my field experience hours, but I was able to get it finished and get my degree. T.E.A.C.H. has supported me by being the number one reason I could finish. The staff has always been encouraging and helpful. The funding for classes and books has made this possible. If it weren't for T.E.A.C.H., I would not be a WSSU graduate today! My words for those thinking about or currently continuing their education: never give up, keep pushing—you can do this."

— NATASHA THOMPSON, BACHELOR DEGREE GRADUATE
STOKES COUNTY

"When I started teaching over seven years ago, I would have never imagined how the profession would change my life. What I thought to be a 'stepping stone' in my professional career path, turned out to be my passion. Unfortunately, my undergraduate degree was in a field non related to education, leaving me feeling uncertain of my next steps. It wasn't until a colleague sent me information regarding the T.E.A.C.H. program that I began to see my passion becoming a reality. Fast forward four years and I have completed my Birth-Kindergarten Licensure, all while working full-time in a classroom and starting a family. Obtaining my teaching license would have not been possible without the support and assistance I received from T.E.A.C.H. I now feel that I have the knowledge and experience to continue my professional career as an educator, along with carrying out my passion to teach young children of North Carolina. Thanks for a great four years!"

— KELCI BRADNER, BIRTH-KINDERGARTEN
LICENSURE ADD-ON GRADUATE
JOHNSTON COUNTY



CONGRATS TO RECIPIENTS

"It is truly an honor to write and share about this special time in my life. I did it! I am a professional and NC Certified B-K Teacher! I studied and trained with one of our best: East Carolina University! Go Pirates! This is truly the most important milestone in my educational pursuit thus far. I could not have done it as quickly without the T.E.A.C.H. Program. Graduating during a global health pandemic was shocking and to a degree, it had me paralyzed for a moment. I had worked so hard and waited so long for this day. Now there would be nothing, but to try and keep safe from the virus. There would be no face-to-face celebration as planned with my class and professors after spending two years of online learning with few face-to-face classes and meetings on campus. No big family gatherings with my family and friends, nor a night out on the town, no hugs, laughs, gifts or decorations. My hopes and plans were gone forever [I thought].

It was so amazing how school and university staff went into action to save our special moment and the remainder of the school year. We did a virtual celebration. I dressed up in a special navy dress I had bought for the actual occasion. The department staff mailed us a "teacher's tools" gift package. My sister and my daughter gave me an in-house virtual celebration with gifts, flowers and my favorite cake with special wordings later that evening. We laughed and sang. Video and pictures were created. My heart was touched, and my 2020 graduation was an absolutely beautiful celebration. I was thankful.

I had the opportunity to be a part of change in a crisis and in how teaching and learning virtually could still be done successfully. T.E.A.C.H. was a big support during this time. My T.E.A.C.H. counselor, Pam McGowan stayed in contact. I received meaningful emails from her from the first week we were shut in. She checked-in on whether my work program was paying regular income and if not to let her know. She checked how things were going for me with school and graduation. Most importantly, she responds quickly to my emails and makes sure final paperwork is completed, which she has done so the entire two years I have been in school. T.E.A.C.H. has been an awesome support for me during this time when so much more had my mind preoccupied. Thank you to Counselor Pam McGowan and the entire T.E.A.C.H. team!"



— PEGGY PEELE, BIRTH-KINDERGARTEN LICENSURE ADD-ON GRADUATE WAYNE COUNTY



SEMESTER REMINDERS

T.E.A.C.H. NC wants to ensure your academic success so we have included an abbreviated recipient checklist in this section of semester reminders. “Semester reminders” is our way of calling your attention to some of the more important aspects of the scholarship process. These items can be those that can pause or delay your scholarship process. If you need further explanation on any of these items please feel free to contact your scholarship counselor. **If you had a reduction in employment hours, please contact T.E.A.C.H. NC immediately to discuss alternative scholarship options.**

RECIPIENT CHECKLIST

- Send in your signed contract to activate your scholarship. This document **MUST** be received before any scholarship activity can occur.
- Send us a completed W-9 with your name, address and social security number. Remember to sign and date this document.
- Send us your Request for Permission to Release Information. You must check one of the boxes, granting or denying us permission to release personal information. Remember to sign and date this document.
- You **MUST** send your Form B with itemized receipts for tuition and book if applicable every semester. You should be able to access itemized tuition statements from Self Service or Web-Advisor.
- Itemized book receipts should be obtained from the bookstore or your online purchaser.
- If you receive an invoice please make sure it is paid on or before the due date. If not, this may cause a “pause” to your scholarship. If you are not able to pay the invoice in full please call our office to discuss payment options.
- Send us your unofficial transcript at the end of each semester. Please make sure your identifying information and the schools identifying information are on the document. Please **DO NOT** write or highlight on the document itself.



KUDOS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MASTER'S DEGREE

- Bonnie Gould
- Jessica Hollowell
- Margo Ford
- Dena Harward
- Natalie Cowal
- Katherine Atchison
- Catherine Decker
- Lovette Kirks
- Danielle Sims
- Elizabeth Chambers
- Doris Gardner
- Tara Hedges
- Kathleen Heidbreder
- Sakia Jackson-Sellars
- Nancy Rease
- Sherry Cogdill
- Jennifer Caina
- Mary Lewis
- Robin Fuller-Jones
- Angela Morse
- Maria Mclean
- Raquel Carney
- Kelly Shaw
- Kaylee Cobb

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- Sandra Scott
- Cassandra Pierce
- Kimberley Stutts
- Lisa Moore
- Leslie Mintz
- Donna Byrd
- Rhonda Page
- Elizabeth Davis
- Bonnie Eldridge
- Natasha Thompson
- Aaleyah Robinson
- Levone McRae
- Shamekqua Ellison
- Shanick Shaw
- Mekia Roberson
- Katie Allen

LITTLE

- Michelle Han

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE

- Brittany Auffhammer
- Juwana Sligh
- Yvette Garner
- Tiffany Grace Pointer
- Victoria Lovvorn
- Kaylea Roberts
- Shannon Surratte
- Tracey Turner
- Adrienne Singletary
- Katelyn Shade
- Cynthia Marshall
- Teresa Blunt
- Maesha Parrish
- Lilliam Rameriz

BIRTH-KINDERGARTEN LICENSURE

- Robin Crawley
- Kelci Bradner
- Peggy Peele
- Mindy LaPanne



T.E.A.C.H. NC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Felica Olds

Position: Counselor II

Education: BS Early Childhood Education And Family Relations

Experience in the Classroom: 20 years

Years with T.E.A.C.H.: 4 Months

Primary Counselor For: A-B Tech, Blue Ridge, Caldwell Tech, Catawba Valley, Cleveland, Davidson County, Gaston, Isothermal, McDowell Tech, Mitchell, Montgomery, Piedmont, Randolph, Richmond, Rowan-Cabarrus, South Piedmont, Southwestern, Surrey, Tri-County, Western Piedmont and Wilkes





MEET YOUR T.E.A.C.H. NC TEAM

- **Edith Locke**, Division Vice President
- **Amy Duffy**, Program Manager
- **Kimberly Bynum**, Program Manager and Primary Counselor for recipients on our: Master's Degree, LITL, and Preschool Add-On Scholarships
- **Pam McGowan**, Scholarship Counselor III and Primary Counselor for recipients attending: East Carolina, Fayetteville State University, Stanly Community College, Shaw University, UNC-Greensboro and Western Carolina University
- **Tomonica Rice-Yarborough**, Field Based Outreach Coordinator and Primary Counselor for recipients attending: Alamance Community College, Catawba College, Durham Tech Community College Elizabeth City State University, Greensboro College, Guilford Tech Community College, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Wilmington, and UNC-Pembroke
- **Kawon Wood**, Scholarship Counselor II for recipients attending: Beaufort Community College, Bladen Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, College of the Albemarle, Craven Community College, Edgecombe Community College, Fayetteville Tech Community College, Halifax Community College, James Sprunt Community College, Johnston Community College, Lenoir Community College, Martin Community College, Nash Community College, Pamlico Community College, Pitt Community College, Robeson Community College, Rockingham Community College, Sampson Community College, Sandhills Community College, Southeastern Community College, Wilson Tech Community College, Vance-Granville Community College and Wayne Community College

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MEET YOUR T.E.A.C.H. NC TEAM

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- **Felica Olds**, Scholarship Counselor II and Primary Counselor for recipients attending: A-B Tech Community College, Blue Ridge Community College, Caldwell Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Cleveland Community College, Davidson Community College, Gaston Community College, Isothermal Community College, McDowell Tech Community College, Mitchell Community College, Montgomery Community College, Piedmont Community College, Randolph Community College, Richmond Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, South Piedmont Community College, Southwestern Community College, Surry Community College, Tri-County Community College, Western Piedmont Community College and Wilkes Community College
- **Mildrienne Best**, Scholarship Counselor III and Primary Counselor for recipients attending: Barton Community College, Brevard Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Gardner-Webb University, North Carolina Central University, University of Mount Olive Community College, and Wake Tech
- **Kathy Thornton**, Quality Control Systems Coordinator and Primary Counselor for recipients attending: Appalachian State University, Haywood Community College, NC A&T State University, and Winston Salem State University
- **Schquita Battle**, Administrative Department Manager and Primary Counselor for recipients on our: Community Specialist Scholarship
- **Christie Warren**, Administrative Assistant II
- **Monica Livingston**, Administrative Assistant II



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