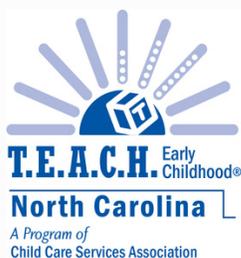


VOLUME 9 • JUNE 2022



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

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



## TAKE A PEEK!

ANNOUNCEMENTS - 2

THE DEGREE MARATHON - 3

BUSTING THE  
MYTHS - 5

SEMESTER  
REMINDERS - 6

KUDOS - 7

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT - 8

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

Congratulations to all our newest graduates! Your hard work and determination are admired and appreciated. We wish all our scholarship recipients a happy and stress-free summer!

*"It always seems impossible until it's done"*  
- Nelson Mandela



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NC PROMISE SCHOOLS

Fayetteville State University is the state's newest NC Promise school. Starting in the Fall 2022 semester, undergraduate tuition will be \$500 per semester for in-state students. Graduate and visiting students are not eligible for NC Promise Tuition Rates. More information on NC Promise Schools can be found at [www.ncpromise.com](http://www.ncpromise.com).

Fayetteville State University is a T.E.A.C.H. partnering university and scholarships are available. More information about this university as well as other partnering colleges and universities that accept the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NC Scholarship Program can be found in our On-line College Directory at:

<https://www.childcareservices.org/programs/teach-north-carolina/college-directory>



## COLLEGE DEGREE ATTAINMENT IS A MARATHON, AND NOT ALWAYS A STRAIGHT LINE: CELEBRATING T.E.A.C.H. GRADUATES!

Getting to the finish line of a college degree is not a sprint, but rather a marathon. It's not always a straight line either. For T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship recipients, it is quite an accomplishment to earn a college degree. T.E.A.C.H. recipients are attending college while working full time in the early care and education field and are often faced with many obstacles and detours. With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the journey has become even more challenging. Despite these struggles, scholarship recipients have demonstrated resilience and perseverance as they pursue their goal of earning college degrees with the support of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship Program all along the way.

There are many different steps from admission to graduation that need to be taken to earn a college degree. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship Program is there from the beginning for the early care and education workforce. The counseling, financial assistance and other supports the program provides ensure a successful experience for scholarship recipients, making it more likely they will reach that finish line.

The first step toward earning a degree involves choosing and applying for college, which requires research and getting transcripts and other required documents together. At the community college level, students have to complete placement testing, which can be anxiety provoking. The admission process at four-year colleges and universities is even more complicated and costly.

With all of these obstacles, it may be difficult for students to even start the daunting process. That is where the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program can help. [With an online directory of early childhood programs of study in North Carolina community college and partnering four-year colleges and universities](#), potential recipients can research their options. T.E.A.C.H. counselors are also available by phone and email to help match a scholarship to individual educational goals, as well as provide encouragement and information on available resources at the college if needed.

"I have been working on my associate degree for 16 years off and on. I'm most proud of taking the courage to go back to school and being determined to finish. Without the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship and on-line courses, I wouldn't be able to afford to go back to school and finish my degree. As a mother of two girls and working fulltime, the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship made it possible."

-Associate Degree Scholarship recipient

Once admitted, students must orient themselves to the college and meet with advisors to chart their course. T.E.A.C.H. recipients also have a dedicated scholarship counselor who works closely with the college to ensure recipients' courses are authorized and paid to the college. Coursework must then be successfully completed to progress towards the degree. Any misstep or unexpected occurrence can knock students off course at any time during their college journey. Failed or withdrawn courses, having to take remedial coursework, and time management and personal issues are examples of these bumps in the road. Any of these can lead to a loss of momentum in which students either struggle with staying motivated or completely abandon their plans. The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program understands these challenges, so scholarships remain flexible and counselors are available to help recipients navigate these challenges.

Even when all the required courses are completed, students must then follow the process for applying for graduation to be sure they meet all the requirements. This can be a very exciting but stressful time for students as they are getting closer to their goal, but still have a few more challenges to overcome to get to the finish line. There are fees and other graduation related expenses to pay. For those at 4-year colleges, there are internships or student teaching placements that need to be successfully completed. Although the scholarship program does not pay graduation fees or other costs associated with graduation, a substantial bonus is awarded to scholarship recipients who earn an associate's or bachelor's degree and those who earn the birth-kindergarten teaching license. Practicum only scholarships that provide a living stipend to recipients who have to complete a student teaching semester are also available. As students complete these final steps, it's important that they receive the support needed to get them to their goal. The counselor continues to be that cheerleader and supporter.

"My lifetime goal was to go back to school and earn my associate degree in Early Childhood Education. I started my journey 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."

-Associate Degree Scholarship recipient

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NC Scholarship Program celebrates our recipients who have accepted the challenge from the profession to earn a degree and have achieved that high honor. These students have navigated their way through the entire process to reach their goal and should be celebrated. T.E.A.C.H. counselors remain an important support to recipients and can help them during any step of the way. The counselor can provide resources on choosing the right college and how to apply for admission. Once on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship, the counselor will work closely with recipients and guide them on their way. Although not a college advisor, the counselor understands the college process and can help recipients with any obstacles. Diverse and flexible scholarships models and incentives built into the program also foster a successful journey.

"A couple of years ago, I reached out to T.E.A.C.H. and requested assistance on completing my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. I wanted to be an example to the directors that work with me and all of our staff. I will be graduating from the University of Mount Olive. I am an older graduate, 58 years young. But T.E.A.C.H. has allowed me to follow a dream that I never really thought possible. I love this field that I have worked in for 30 plus years. I love watching the excitement of children when they learn a new song, a new word, or when they learn how to build a tower. Like many of those children, I feel that I have also learned something new; I learned that you are never too old to fulfill a dream and be an example to others."

-Bachelor's Degree Scholarship recipient

We celebrate T.E.A.C.H. recipients who have graduated with college degrees, especially considering all the extra challenges brought on by the pandemic. The early care and education field will certainly benefit from these resilient professionals who are all winners for working hard, never giving up and fulfilling their dreams of earning a college education.



## BUSTING THE MYTHS

**Myth: The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NC Scholarship Program is not available to part-time employees.**

**FACT:** The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NC Scholarship Program requires that participants work a set number of hours to be eligible for scholarship. Most scholarship models require the participant to work at least 30 hours per week. However, if the child care facility operates on a part-time basis that prevents the fulfillment of 30 hours per week, a Part Day Scholarship model is available under the Associate Degree Quick Start/Final Step Scholarship Program. Licensed preschool and school age program staff who are unable to meet the 30 hour per week eligibility requirement because their sponsoring centers do not operate on a full-time basis, may be eligible for this scholarship.

**Myth: The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NC Scholarship Program requires the completion of a degree.**

**FACT:** T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NC Scholarship models do require a certain level of education to be completed during each contract period. However, participants decide the level of education they ultimately would like to attain. For example, comprehensive models will enable participants to take a few classes in early childhood education or to work toward a certificate, diploma and/or associate degree. Each contract lasts for one year (three semesters) and allows participants to take 9-15 credit hours of course work leading to an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. The participant and sponsoring center decide if they would like to renew the contract each year, which allows participants to control the pace and level of educational goal attainment. For the Working Scholars models, the contract lasts for two years and allows recipients to enroll in up to 30 credit hours.

**Myth: The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NC Scholarship Program helps pay for early childhood coursework only.**

**FACT:** The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NC Scholarship Program offers scholarship models that enable participants to work toward early childhood credentials or degrees. When participating in a degree model, the scholarship will cover developmental courses, approved electives, and general education courses required to complete the degree, in addition to early childhood coursework.



## SEMESTER REMINDERS

T.E.A.C.H. NC wants to help ensure your academic success by including an abbreviated recipient checklist in this section of semester reminders. “Semester reminders” are our way of calling your attention to some of the more important aspects of the scholarship process. These checklist items, if ignored, can pause, or delay your scholarship process. If you need further explanation about any of these items, please feel free to contact your scholarship counselor.

### RECIPIENT CHECKLIST

- Send in your signed contract to activate your scholarship. This document **MUST** be received before any scholarship activity can occur.
- Send 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, Web-Advisor or University portals. 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 “pause” your scholarship. If you are not able to pay the invoice in full, please call our office to discuss payment options.
- Send your unofficial transcript at the end of each semester. Please make sure your identifying information and the school’s identifying information are on the document. Please **DO NOT** write or highlight on the document itself.
- When submitting an ACH Form for direct deposit payments please complete the ACH Form fully and submit it with a voided check or bank letter/form verifying the accounts numbers.

Remember to use the [teachnc@childcareservices.org](mailto:teachnc@childcareservices.org) email address when emailing documents so that our T.E.A.C.H. Admin team can log the documents received and forward them to the primary scholarship counselor for review. Any questions or concerns can be emailed to your primary scholarship counselor.



# KUDOS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This section is dedicated to Spring 2022 graduates and additional Fall 2021 graduates. We are so proud of you!

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE

- Shirley Ayers
- Peggy Berry
- Ginteda Byrd
- Wynessa Cannady
- Karen Chappell
- Patrina Ellison
- Sarah Faucette
- Shaheerah Moore
- Sylvia Richardson
- Portia Sherrod
- Donna Sinclair
- Ashley Snow

## BIRTH-KINDERGARTEN LICENSURE

- Deandre Goard
- Anita Hudson
- Sara Kiehn
- Angelica Pinnix
- Lorena Salguero
- Meredith Shoffner
- Larry Sorrels

## BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- Sheila Bates
- Timara Becton
- Ashley Bilello
- Melanie Bradshaw
- Christy Clay
- Erin Dail
- Christy Galloway
- Remecca Gauldin
- Grettel Jarquin
- Barbara Maxwell
- Alana Nast
- Shannon Niro
- Tina Pearson
- Betty Josie Reeves
- Caitlin Rojas
- Juiia Sloley
- Tashanda Smith
- Crystal Vaden
- JoAnne Whaley
- Terry Whitworth
- Karen Williams
- Jessica Wilson
- Denise Wright

## MASTER'S DEGREE

- Cedonna Barret-Ward
- Brandiise Belton
- Mary Lewis
- Aurelila Mangum-Brown
- Casandra Pittman
- Shaundree Watkins

*Please Note: This list includes those recipients that have sent in documentation of their degree/licensure completion prior to the release of this newsletter and captures those not previously recognized.*

# SPRING 2022 GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

“

As an early childhood educator, I deeply recognize and appreciate the impact that exposure to high-quality care and education can have on the lives of young children. Throughout the past 23 years that I have spent in early learning environments, I have worked among some of the most dedicated, passionate and nurturing educators the field has to offer. Many have exhibited the continual drive to be lifelong learners, growing in their abilities to deliver pedagogy derived from the foundational framework of widely influential educational theorists. Our stories are unique, but we likely share the desire to solidify our place as professionals. Education is key to the goal, and T.E.A.C.H. is instrumental in achieving it. I am forever grateful for the financial assistance, encouragement, and support that I have received through my T.E.A.C.H. sponsorship. It truly paved the way for me and so many others to expand our abilities to foster and provide high-quality care and education for the young children of North Carolina.



**Josie Shatley Reeves**

”



**Cassandra Pittman**

“

My experience with the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program was amazing and I am grateful for it. From the beginning, I felt the support of my counselor, Mrs. Bynum, who assisted me through the scholarship process. Also, she checked in with me mid-way through each semester and answered any questions that I had along the way.

As far as my journey at UNCG, it was a dream come true and zoomed by faster than I thought. Due to the funding of the T.E.A.C.H. program, I was able to achieve my goal of obtaining my master's degree at a quality university. I was taught by some awesome instructors who were very knowledgeable in the early childhood field. They were understanding, helpful, and made changes as needed due to our courses being taught during the pandemic. I feel prepared to be a better administrator, leader and advocate for early childhood education. Although our program was online, I have built friendships with some of the best early childhood professionals in the field. I will forever be grateful to the T.E.A.C.H. program and the future doors that will be open as a result of obtaining my master's degree. I hope funding for this program continues to be around for many years to come.

”

“

I am proud to say that I have been a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient since 2017. My director introduced me to the program when I informed her that I wanted to continue to further my education in early childhood. After seeking further details on T.E.A.C.H., I found it to be very rewarding, supportive, and informative in regards to my needs. The counselors were very informative and my assigned counselor, Pam McGowan, was always prompt and courteous in her responses.

Through T.E.A.C.H., I have been able to obtain my bachelor's degree at UNCG without the worries of affordability of schooling. Along with the scholarship, the bonuses have been a plus as it helps to ensure retention in the teaching field. Not only are the bonuses a perk, but just being able to get quality, higher education at a school of your choice and pursue it on your own timing was the best feeling! Additionally, having employer, colleague and family support made it all worthwhile and an experience that I'd definitely do again!



**Crystal Vaden**

”

# SPRING 2022 GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

“

I would like to express my gratitude for the T.E.A.C.H. program. I have been blessed with the opportunity to be a recipient of the T.E.A.C.H. for the last seven years. I have successfully completed an AAS and BA in Early Education and graduated with my Master's in Leadership and Administration of Early Childhood through UNCG on May 6, 2022. None of this would have been possible without the financial support of the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship. The staff at T.E.A.C.H. have been supportive and caring throughout the last seven years as I have worked to achieve academic success. As an administrator, T.E.A.C.H. has allowed our program to support seven additional employees to gain higher education without the burden of student loans. The T.E.A.C.H. program is vital to the success of the foundation for early learners as we strive to improve each child's educational needs. I look forward to implementing many changes within our program through the education I have received. Thank you to T.E.A.C.H. for the opportunity to advance my education!!



Mary Lewis

”



Joanne Whaley

“

I have been in the child care industry for about 35 years. T.E.A.C.H. helped me to get my associate degree in 2013 from Haywood Community College when I was a director for The Sunshine House Early Learning Academy. I have always enjoyed working with our children, parents and staff. I was promoted to Regional Director in 2014. I am the regional director for 12 centers: six in Greensboro and six in Fayetteville NC. I have always believed that the best supervisors lead by example. I had several directors with their associate degrees, but we did not have our bachelor's degrees. We investigated T.E.A.C.H. We wanted our degree in Early Childhood Education but did not need the licensure. T.E.A.C.H. gave us a list of colleges/universities that we could check out. We chose the University of Mount Olive. On April 29th, 2022, I walked across the stage and accepted my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education, Suma Cum Laude. It was a dream come true. My husband, children and granddaughter were in attendance. They all knew how hard I worked for my degree. The message I wanted to give to them that day was, don't be afraid to follow your dreams. You are never too old. If you would like to further your education, please call T.E.A.C.H. They will help you every step of the way. I am very grateful this program.

”

# CONGRATS GRADS!



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

**Edith Locke**, Division Vice President

**Amy Duffy**, Program Manager

**Kimberly Bynum**, Scholarship Manager and Primary Counselor for recipients on our Master's Degree, LITL and Preschool Add-On Scholarships and for recipients attending UNC Wilmington

**Schquita Battle**, Administrative Department Manager

**Kathy Thornton**, Quality Control Systems Coordinator and Primary Counselor for recipients attending Appalachian State University, Barton Community College, Brevard Community College, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Fayetteville State University, Gardner Webb University, Haywood Community College, North Carolina Central University, Shaw University and Winston-Salem State University

**Pam McGowan**, Scholarship Counselor III and Primary Counselor for recipients attending Catawba College, East Carolina University, Greensboro College, NC A&T State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Charlotte, UNC- Greensboro, University of Mount Olive, UNC-Pembroke and Western Carolina University

**Felica Olds**, Scholarship Counselor II and Primary Counselor for recipients attending A-B Technical Community College, Blue Ridge Community College, Caldwell Technical Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Cleveland Community College, College of the Albemarle, Craven Community College, Davidson County Community College, Edgecombe Community College, Gaston Community College, Isothermal Community College, McDowell Technical Community College, Mitchell Community College, Montgomery Community College, Nash Community College, Randolph Community College, Richmond Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, Sampson Community College, South Piedmont Community College, Southwestern Community College, Surry Community College, Tri- County Community College, Western Piedmont Community College and Wilkes Community College.



**Tiawanna Thorpe**, Scholarship Counselor II and Primary Counselor for recipients attending Beaufort County Community College, Bladen Community College, Brunswick Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Carteret Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Halifax Community College, James Sprunt Community College, Johnston Community College, Sandhills Community College, Stanly Community College, Wayne Community College, Wilson Technical Community College and those on our Child Development Associate (CDA) scholarship models.

**Nancy Mungula**, Scholarship Counselor III: Alamance Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Durham Technical Community College, Lenoir Community College, Martin Community College, Pamlico Community College, Piedmont Community College, Pitt Community College, Robeson Community College, Rockingham Community College, Southeastern Community College, Vance-Granville Community College and Wake Technical Community College.

**Christie Warren**, Administrative Assistant II

**Shakeerah Mills**, Administrative Assistant II



Child Care Services Association  
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

