



VOLUME 17 • JANUARY 2024

T.E.A.C.H. TALK

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



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

Our wish for you in 2024 is that you have joy, fulfillment, and continued inspiration as you guide and educate the children in your classroom. Thank you for your dedication and impact on young minds and role-modeling the pursuit of education as you work toward your educational goals. Happy New Year!

“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child’s own natural desire to learn” – Maria Montessori

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department of Education Limits Colleges' Ability to Hold Transcripts

Edward Conroy's, *New America*, article *Department of Education Limits Colleges' Ability to Hold Transcripts*, highlights new regulations and one is a new transcript withholding regulations that will ensure that students who have completed and paid for classes access to their transcript even if they owe their institution money. Below is the link to the article:

[Department of Education Limits Colleges' Ability to Hold Transcripts](#)

The 2024-25 FAFSA Announcement

The 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form is now available. The 2024-25 FAFSA form expands eligibility for federal student aid, including Pell Grants, and provides a streamlined user experience. Below are two links that provide information on the changes.

[7 Key Changes Coming to the 2024-25 FAFSA® Experience](#)

[2024-25 FAFSA® Form Launch](#)

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center's Compendium of Voices from the Field

Click on the image below to read the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NC Voices from the Field 2024.



CCSA is celebrating 50 Years! Click on the link below for CCSA's historical timeline and ticket information for our 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at The Cloth at Eno River.

[CCSA Celebrating 50 Years!](#)

REFRESH MY MEMORY

This section will highlight certain scholarship program processes and/or scholarship forms to provide a refresher to our scholarship recipients and sponsoring facilities.

Renewing Scholarship Contracts

Most of the scholarship contracts are for a contract period that covers three semesters, and they are renewable as long as the scholarship recipient maintains scholarship eligibility. You will find the contract period on the scholarship contract which shows the beginning date and the ending date of the contract period. Please take a note of your scholarship contract period so you will know when it ends and when it is time for a renewal contract. If you are not sure if your scholarship contract is renewable contact your T.E.A.C.H. Specialist for assistance.

Items needed to renew your scholarship contract:

- 1.Current pay stub
- 2.Pre-Authorization request form for the upcoming semester
- 3.Copy of transcript with previous semester grades if grades have posted.
- 4.If your position has changed inform your TEACH Specialist with the details of the change so your scholarship record can be reviewed to determine if an updated center participation agreement page is needed to renew the scholarship contract.



RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT: DAIJA JONES, APPRENTICE

Daija Jones currently works as an Apprentice with one year old students at Primrose School of East Chapel Hill and is participating on the Associate Degree Scholarship for Early Childhood Apprentices. The Associate Degree Scholarship for Early Childhood Apprentices is specifically designed for early childhood apprentices working in licensed programs enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program in North Carolina. Registered early childhood apprenticeship programs are a strategy to help strengthen the pipeline into the early care and education workforce. Although Daija is new to being an Apprentice, she has been working with children for three years now.

Daija feels that children have always brought joy to her life. From a young age, Daija gained an appreciation for teaching as she played the role of the family nanny quite often. Working with children is something that she has found to be enjoyable since then and that is why she decided to pursue a career in Early Childhood.

Patience, open-mindedness, and a willingness to continue to learn are just a few things that she feels is necessary to pursue a career in the early childhood field. After graduating high school in 2020, Daija returned to school on October 16, 2023. The biggest challenge for her has been taking classes virtually rather than in person. Working full-time while trying to attain her associate degree takes a lot of patience and planning. Daija's ability as a quick learner and understanding what was expected of her helps her to prioritize work, school, and her personal life. She feels even more confident heading into her next semester.

Daija is extremely proud of herself for taking this leap to continue her education. She gives thanks to her mother for her unconditional love and support that has helped her to keep pushing through difficult times. Daija understands the need to have a team that supports her. Director Aundria Edwards, Maggie West and Cathy Robinson are a few people who have shown unwavering support and assistance during this time. The Associate Degree Scholarship for Early Childhood Apprentices provides 100% of tuition and fees for 9-15 semester hours for the contract year, \$100 access stipend to assist with the cost of travel and/or course access as well as 48 hours of release time at a rate of \$15 per hour and a \$575 bonus at the completion of the contract year if at least 9 credit hours are successfully completed. She also has the assistance of her primary T.EACH Specialist III, Shanta Hicks on this journey.

If Daija could give advice to anyone thinking about going back to school to pursue a higher degree, this would be it:

“You are the only one who truly knows your journey. Never compare yourself to anyone else because you are your biggest competition.”



DAIJA JONES



CENTER SPOTLIGHT: A NEW BEGINNING IV APPRENTICESHIP CENTER

We are so thankful here at ANB Early Care and Education, LLC for this lifetime opportunity to participate in the apprenticeship program. This program is a mega shift for Early Childhood professionals in NC. To have access to quality education, tuition assistance, and mentorship will surely provide Early Childhood professionals with the keys to lasting success in this field. We have several teachers participating and it has been a joy watching them discover and learn more about the field without the added pressures of paying for college. I am thankful to the state of NC for believing in this field and the impact we have on children's education. We will gladly continue to serve children and families, knowing we are respected and valued!

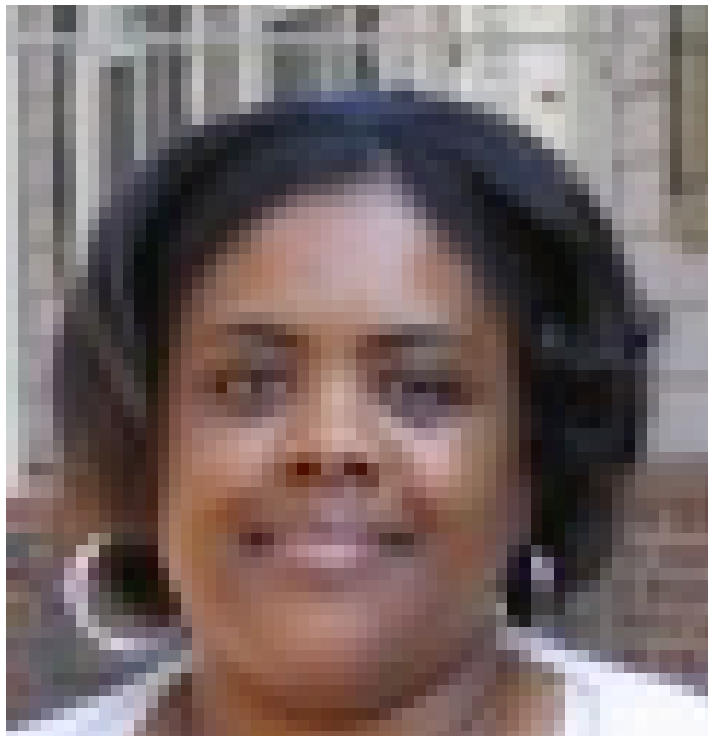
- Chaunte' N. Fullard, M.S.



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

Introducing **Dr. Kathy Thornton!!**

Please join us in our heartfelt congratulations to Kathy Thornton, T.E.A.C.H. Administrative Quality Control Coordinator, on completing a Doctor of Education (Ed.D) degree in Community Care and Counseling with a cognate in Marriage and Family, Liberty University! Her dedication and hard work in achieving this goal was inspirational and we are so proud of her accomplishment! Hats off to Dr. Kathy Thornton!



KATHY THORNTON
T.E.A.C.H. ADMINISTRATIVE QUALITY
CONTROL COORDINATOR





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 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 our initial Fall 2023 graduates and additional Summer 2023 graduates. We are so proud of you!

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

- Crystal Alston
- Latasha Harrison
- Natalie Wilson

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- Tawn Bubacz
- Ashley Douglas
- April Estep
- Chanel Evans
- Natasha Johnson
- Brittany Teach-Lizzmore

MASTER'S DEGREE

- Kristin Snellings

BIRTH-KINDERGARTEN LICENSURE

- Aliesha Edwards

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.

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

Edith Locke, Division Vice President

Amy Duffy, Program Manager

Kimberly Bynum, Scholarship Manager and Primary T.E.A.C.H. Specialist for the Master's Degree and LITL scholarship models.

Schquita Battle, Administrative Department Manager

Dr. Sharon Little, Higher Education Liaison Manager II

Dr. Kathy Thornton, Quality Control Systems Coordinator and T.E.A.C.H. Specialist III

Pam McGowan, T.E.A.C.H. Specialist III

Tiawanna Thorpe, T.E.A.C.H. Specialist II

Shanta Hicks, T.E.A.C.H. Specialist III

Jessica Pridgen, T.E.A.C.H. Specialist II

Christie Warren, Administrative Assistant II

Chikita Powell, Administrative Assistant II

