

FY18 Results

Before first grade, a child may spend over 10,000 hours in child care. Research tells us that children enrolled in a good early care and education program in the first five years of life are most likely to be in a highly skilled job or in college at age 21. Ensuring quality early care and education for children today ensures a viable workforce for the future and a strong American economy in the long run.

The quality of early care and education a child receives is directly linked to the education and compensation of early educators. In Nebraska, many early educators do not have higher education degrees and many earn less than \$12 an hour. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program awards educational scholarships to early education professionals in an effort to address the key issues of under-education, poor compensation and high turnover within the early education workforce. All T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships link increasing educational levels with increased compensation and retention. Scholarship recipients and their sponsoring early care and education programs share in the cost.

In Nebraska, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is administered by Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children. In FY18, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska helped over 153 early education professionals in the state increase their education.

Education

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of 16.4 credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of 16.6 credit hours.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients in Nebraska completed over 1,767 credit hours last year.
- The average grade point average for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient working on her associate degree was 3.25; the average GPA for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient working on her bachelor's degree was 3.48.

Compensation

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was \$12.33.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on an associate degree scholarship was 8.7%.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was 8.6%.

Retention

- For associate degree scholarship recipients the average retention rate was 93%.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients the average retention rate was 97%.

Demographics

- 83% of recipients worked with 3-5 year old children.
- 59% of recipients worked with children under 3.
- 31% of recipients were women of color and/or Hispanic origin.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients attended one of the 6 different community colleges or 2 universities offering early childhood degree programs in Nebraska.

Personal Impact

- In a survey of T.E.A.C.H. recipients, 100% indicated they would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to their peers; and 100% of their employers would recommend T.E.A.C.H.

T.E.A.C.H. recipients show dramatic dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates that are far less than national turnover rates of 30-40%. This year alone 6,931 of Nebraska's children benefitted from consistent early education and care provided by better prepared early childhood educators.

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project continues to be heralded by experts in the field as a national leader in creating solutions for early childhood education workforce challenges. National outcomes can be found in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGES® 2017-2018 Annual Program Report: <http://teachecnationalcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/T.E.A.C.H.-National-Center-Annual-Report-FY18.pdf>

FY18 Voices from the Field

Sue Wambaugh graduated in Spring 2018 with her Bachelor's Degree in General Studies with an emphasis in Early Childhood from the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK). Sue was first awarded a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship in the Fall 2005 term for an associate degree scholarship at Southeast Community College (SCC) in Lincoln. She completed over 75 semester credits and earned a 4.0 each term, graduating with her Associate of Arts Degree with High Distinction in Spring 2009. Sue then began work on her bachelor's degree in the Fall 2009 term at UNK. She completed 93 semester credits and earned another 4.0 each term. Sue completed her education and graduated all while working full time as a family child care provider in Lincoln.



Sue says, "My journey began in 2005 when I received a flyer in the mail from T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA stating I could earn a degree in early childhood education. The flyer explained that associate and bachelor's degree scholarship options were now available. I did not grow up in a family that encouraged higher education; and I was always envious of others who had been able to go on to the University and get a degree. At this time, I had had my child care, Wambaugh's Wigwam several years. When I received this flyer, I jumped on the opportunity the very next day. I made an appointment with the Coordinator. I was so sure there must be a "catch" to the program. She assured me there were no catches, and I believed her. I started my first class at Southeast Community College in October 2005.

Over the years, I made several calls to the T.E.A.C.H. office. I considered her my advisor/guidance counselor who helped me through any roadblocks I may have encountered. She offered suggestions when I felt I might be over my head, and at other times shared encouragement that kept me going in a positive direction. She always had an answer to my problem because she had had so much experience with other students and how they overcame their own obstacles.

I cannot say there was "one" most enjoyable part of this journey. Every single class I took gave me enjoyment. Each and every early childhood class I took brought positive changes into my child care center. I went from being a 'babysitter' back in the late-70's, to becoming an early childhood educator.

It took me 12 years to complete my schooling. There were a couple of terms during those 12 years when I did not take classes. I had planned on taking the summer term off but then also took the fall term off because my father got ill and passed away. Even though 12 years sounds like an eternity, when you get older, time seems to fly by so quickly. When I think back now, it seems like yesterday that I walked into Southeast Community College and signed up for that first class: Observation, Assessment and Guidance.

I am so thankful I received that flyer in the mail back in 2005. There isn't really a word in the English language that explains how much I appreciate what the T.E.A.C.H. program has done for me, my program, and for all the children that I have had the privilege of teaching. I celebrated Wambaugh's Wigwam's 42nd year anniversary last month. I am so proud of the program I am now able to offer to my children and their families. I owe it all to T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood NEBRASKA!!" –Sue Wambaugh, T.E.A.C.H. Graduate

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