

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 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 daycare, 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 at that time and I remember sitting across a very small table in what I called the Family Service Building. 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 October 4th, 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 daycare 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 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!!"