

Summer 2018 Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

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T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA

As always, please help us spread the word about T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA!

Our information can be found in the "Education" section of the Nebraska AEYC website, www.nebraskaaeyc.org.

Thank you for your support!

Inside this issue:

Moving the Needle on Compensation	2
FAFSA	2
Early Child Development Online Resources	2
Leadership Academy 2018-2019	3
Frequently Asked Questions	4
Your Personal Reminder	5
20 Questions	6

The Day I Graduated

Because we are committed to higher education for Nebraska's early childhood workforce, we often look for opportunities to share your stories as you move towards degree completion. We all know you have so many amazing experiences and successes, and the lives of your own families and the children and families you serve are better off because of your attainment in higher education.

Our partners at NAEYC have a social media campaign underway on Facebook, Twitter, and in blogs and newsletters, about the pride and sense of accomplishment our teaching workforce experiences when they complete a degree.

Labeled, #TheDayIGraduated, NAEYC is posting stories and photos telling these stories, not only of the pride of graduation day itself, but what our teachers have been able to accomplish because of earning a degree. If you go to Twitter, for example, and search for that hashtag, you can read dozens of stories.

We are encouraging our recipients and past recipients to post stories and personal reflections on their social media feeds, using, #TheDayIGraduated, so that it links to the NAEYC effort.

Don't forget to include how the support from T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA helped you be successful!

If you share your story, please also share it with us, and we'll be following social media looking for them as well.

Thank you in advance!



Check Us Out On Instagram!

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA recently started their own Instagram page!

Please go to "teachenebraska" to start following us today!





Moving the Needle on Compensation

Perhaps you've noticed that early childhood workforce compensation has been in the headlines. In the past two years, there have been hundreds of articles in local and national media that address the abysmal earnings of the early childhood workforce. Rarely do the articles offer solutions.

However, for the past 18 months, with support from T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center staff, Nebraska has been **one of eight** T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® states that have implemented state-based compensation policy,

advocacy, and funding **action plans** to move the needle on early childhood workforce compensation. The ultimate goal has been to raise awareness of early childhood workforce compensation and to create new or significantly expand existing strategies to improve compensation.

Brandee Lengel, our T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Director, has been leading our state team in these efforts.

Team Successes

- Created initial plans for an Early Childhood Business Summit to be held in York, NE on June 8th, 2019.

- Successfully advocated to maintain the School Readiness Tax Credit.
- Explored "Shared Services" model as a compensation strategy.
- Explored a salary supplement program.

If you are interested, a full report will be compiled after the project ends in August.

FAFSA



The time is coming to complete the FAFSA again.

You can begin submitting your FAFSA as of October 1st for the 2019-2020 school year. **Do not wait until the last minute to get approval.** This process can take a month or more to complete.

What you can receive

in financial aid is also based on available funding, so the sooner you apply, the better!

Please remember that the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship is NOT financial aid. We are considered third party billing.

Please also remember that we do NOT encourage you to accept any student

loans. We only want you to accept financial aid that you don't have to pay back, such as a Pell Grant.

More information will be sent to you in early October. In the meantime, please put this on your calendar as a head's up!

Early Child Development Online Resources

Website: child.unl.edu

Blog: learningchildblog.com

Texts4Teachers: extensiontexts.unl.edu

Julie recommends this one!

Twitter: @UNLExtensionTLC

Facebook: The Learning Child

Pinterest: [unlextensiontlc](https://www.pinterest.com/unlextensiontlc)



Leadership Academy 2018-2019

Nebraska AEYC is pleased to offer early childhood center directors and family child care providers a new and fresh opportunity for professional development.

The Nebraska AEYC Leadership Academy will offer you the opportunity to:

- Gain a better understanding of different leadership styles and identify your own personal leadership style.
- Identify your personal strengths and how these

strengths support leadership.

- Assess your level of Emotional Intelligence (EI) and understand how EI affects leadership.
- Understand the connection between communication and leadership.
- Earn professional development in-service hours for child care licensing.

Leadership Academy cohorts are currently being formed in

the Fremont (Family Child Care Providers) and Grand Island (Center Directors) areas.

Space is limited to five participants in each cohort and our Beatrice area cohort for family child care providers is already full!

Each cohort will meet once a month between September 2018 and May 2019. Meeting dates and times will be established by each cohort.

To register, contact Tracy Gordon at 402-476-2089. There is NO cost to participate and free leadership materials will be provided!



Tracy Gordon (second from left) with five recent Leadership Academy graduates this July.

Frequently Asked Questions

A. I have a balance on my college account. Why?

Q.. We typically don't see an invoice for all of our T.E.A.C.H. students at each college until mid to late term. The balance you see is what we will be getting billed for. It should not keep you from registering for classes, but if it does, contact your Scholarship Counselor. Otherwise, T.E.A.C.H. will take care of it.

A. I bought my own books. How can I get reimbursed for them?

Q. Remember, you can use your T.E.A.C.H. account to purchase your books without having to pay out of pocket and wait for a reimbursement. But, if you do, send a copy of your receipt to your Scholarship Counselor **right away**, so we can start the reimbursement process.

A. I need to get a t-shirt for my practicums. Can T.E.A.C.H. pay for this?

Q. No, we cannot. T.E.A.C.H. is funded to only pay for required textbooks. We can't pay for t-shirts, laptops, or items as small as notebooks, binders, or pens.



Your Personal Reminder



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA

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“Educating Nebraska’s Early Childhood Workforce”

Upcoming Dates

September 3rd: Labor Day—Office Closed

September 17th: Thriving Children Conference in Kearney (Julie will be there!)

September 26th: T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Committee Meeting

October 5th: Annual Teachers’ Night @ The Durham Museum in Omaha (Julie will be there!)

October 8th: Columbus Day—Office Closed

October 19th-20th: UNK Conference in Kearney (Julie will be there!)

We’re on the web!

www.nebraskaeyc.org

20 Questions

This month’s section of “20 Questions” features Arielle from Adams County. She is currently a head start teacher in Hastings. She has been on a Bachelor Degree Gap Scholarship Model since the Spring 2018 term.

1. What is your favorite color? **Purple**
2. Do you prefer writing in pen or pencil? **Pen**
3. What is your favorite movie? **Trolls**
4. If I weren’t a teacher, I’d be... **A famous country singer!**
5. What’s your favorite food? **Anything**
6. Do you have any pets? **One dog named Bruno**
7. If you could have one super power, what would it be? **Invisibility**
8. What is something you are afraid of? **SPIDERS!**
9. Do you have a favorite holiday? **Christmas**
10. What do you like to do in your free time? **Play with my kids, listen to music**
11. What is your favorite season? **Spring or Fall**
12. Would you rather live in a place that was always hot or a place that was always cold? **Hot**
13. What is something you wish you could do? **Time travel back to see my Grandpa again**
14. What is your favorite book? **The Bible**
15. If you could meet someone famous, past or present, who would it be? **Donald Trump**
16. What is one of your biggest pet peeves? **Rude people**
17. Do you have any brothers or sisters? **Two sisters, One brother... One sister-in-law, Two brother-in-laws**
18. What’s one place you really want to travel to? **Bora Bora or the Bahamas**
19. What are your favorite TV shows? **Lifetime or Hallmark movie channels**
20. If you had to describe yourself in three words, what would they be? **Funny, happy, loving**

Thank you, Arielle, for your responses! If you would like to participate, please send me your responses to these 20 questions or create 20 of your own!