

Summer 2022 Newsletter



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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!

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Student Spotlight—Sidney Wood

Sidney Wood graduated at the end of the Spring 2022 term with her Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Sidney was first awarded a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship in the Spring 2019 term. She completed 88 credits and graduated with her degree while working full time as an assistant teacher in a public school preschool program in Greeley County.

Sidney says, "Three years ago, I found myself waitressing at my local Pub & Grill. As I was taking a customer's order, she asked me what my plan was after graduating

from Central Community College. I explained to her that I would continue to be a paraprofessional at our public school as I had no interest in furthering my education in fear of student debt. She said, 'You should apply for the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship, you would be a great candidate.' I hurried home after my shift, did some research and started filling out the application immediately! I had never looked forward to checking the mail, but let's just say . . . I checked it every day for the next three weeks. On the third week, I had received my acceptance letter and that is the

day that truly changed my life forever. The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship has made it possible for me to pursue my passion in education. Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to walk across the stage at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The program assisted me with 80% tuition, provided study hours within my work schedule, and always had the door open for a helping hand. I cannot thank this program enough and because of them, I will be teaching at Central Valley for the next two years! ♥"



Mindful Moments at Work

From the Nebraska Association for Infant Mental Health

Mindfulness is purposefully paying attention to the present moment and doing so with an attitude of openness, curiosity, and without judgement. Taking micro-moments every day to practice mindfulness can help reduce your stress and enhance your workplace engagement. Here is one way to identify a way to practice mindfulness at work.

Stop. Pause. Listen

We often focus on what we want to say during conversations. Instead, try to listen to understand; without judgement or preconceived ideas. At the start of a meeting or conversation, pause, and feel your feet on the ground. Take a breath and then set your intention to speak less and listen more.

How are you positioning your body?

Are your shoulders relaxed?

Notice your feelings.

Can you listen with presence?

If yes, then practice paying attention to the listener and letting them finish.



VOTE!

November 8th, 2022 is General Election Day. Don't delay in getting registered to vote, if you aren't already!

July 11th is the first day to submit your early voting ballot request. To request an early mail-in ballot, go to civicnebraska.vote. You can also go to civicnebraska.org/election-2022/dropbox-locations/

to find your Nebraska ballot dropbox.

October 11th is the first day to vote early in person.

October 21st is the last day to register ONLINE to vote and to mail in your voter registration application and/or early mail-in ballot.

October 28th is the last

day to register in person. To find your election commission office and register to vote, go to sos.nebraska.gov/elections/election-officials-contact-information.

On November 8th, the polls will be open from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm.

Exercise your civic duty!

PRAXIS Update

Our state legislature made some changes to the guidelines for taking the PRAXIS exam. If you are currently a bachelor degree student, or will be one eventually, this applies to you! "The PRAXIS tests help Nebraska educators demonstrate their knowledge of content, pedagogy, and instructional skills for the classroom." It is a standardized test in reading, writing, and math. For quite some time, you were never able to take the higher-level education courses until you passed the PRAXIS. In the most recent session of our state legislature, some of our senators were trying to eliminate the PRAXIS altogether. However, other senators were against that, so instead of no changes at all, they have allowed students to be able to continue taking all of their coursework, and then require that students pass the PRAXIS before receiving their teaching certificate. What this means for you is that you will no longer be held back from taking courses because you haven't passed the PRAXIS yet. However, don't wait until you are done with your coursework and ready to get your teaching certificate before you take the PRAXIS. Take it as soon as you can, so if takes you more than one try to pass, you have some time before you apply for your teaching certificate. The University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) is doing a great job adding new/free resources to help with PRAXIS preparation. Tutors are also available both in person and through Zoom. Here are two helpful links!

<https://www.unk.edu/academics/certification/praxis-information.php>

https://www.unk.edu/offices/learning_commons/praxis-core-support.php

New Podcast

“From the launch of Head Start to the Preschool for All initiative, to new discoveries in early brain development, the past 60 years have been transformative for the field of early childhood. Yet, America has no national system for early care and education—parents are faced with a patchwork of programs and policies whose shortcomings have been highlighted by the pandemic. Erikson Institute, a graduate school in early childhood, was co-founded by early childhood educator, scholar, and activist, Barbara Taylor Bowman, 55 years ago. Erikson’s rich history

and the impact of the pandemic inspired Erikson to propose a podcast series looking at the history of early care and education, with an eye to what a more equitable and just system could look like for the future.

Their series is titled, ‘1,800 Days: The Story of Early Childhood in the US’ because the first 1,800 days of every child’s life—the time from birth to entering kindergarten—is the most intense period of development in every person’s lifetime.

Hosted by Natalie Moore—

renowned author (The South Side) and reporter (WBEZ public radio) specializing in race, class, and communities—‘1,800 Days’ features experts in the field—from national figures like Barbara Taylor Bowman, to dedicated professionals working on the front lines. The series will inform early childhood educators, caregivers, and students; policy makers, advocates, and parents.”

Check it out wherever you get your podcasts!



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 replace my laptop. 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 unfortunately 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

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc.
650 J Street, Suite 23
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: 402-858-5143
Email: jwarford@nebraskaaeyc.org



“Educating Nebraska’s Early Childhood Workforce”



We're on the web!
www.nebraskaaeyc.org

Upcoming Dates

August 1st—8th: Julie Out Of Office (PLAN ACCORDINGLY!)

August 15th: CCC First Day Of Fall Semester

August 21st: MPCC First Day Of Fall Semester

August 22nd: Little Priest/NECC/SCC/WNCC/UNK/UNL/CSC/WSC/PSC First Day Of Fall Semester

August 24th: NE Indian First Day Of Fall Semester

September 6th: MCC First Day Of Fall Quarter

***If you are registered for a fall term class, please send your schedule to Julie ASAP. Charge approvals will be sent by July 29th. If you are taking the term off, please let her know, too.**

20 Questions

This month's section of "20 Questions" features Denise from Hooker County. She is currently the owner/director of a preschool program in Mullen. She has been on an Associate Degree Scholarship Model since the Summer 2019 term.

1. What is your favorite color? **Purple**
2. Do you prefer writing in pen or pencil? **Pen**
3. What is your favorite movie? **Pretty Woman**
4. If I weren't a teacher, I'd be... **A cosmetologist**
5. What's your favorite food? **Taco pizza**
6. Do you have any pets? **Yes... Four dogs, lots of outdoor cats, & goldfish**
7. If you could have one super power, what would it be? **To grant wishes**
8. What is something you are afraid of? **Cancer**
9. Do you have a favorite holiday? **Christmas**
10. What do you like to do in your free time? **Anything crafty**
11. What is your favorite season? **Fall**
12. Would you rather live in a place that was always hot or a place that was always cold? **Cold**
13. What is something you wish you could do? **Draw**
14. What is your favorite book? **Heaven Is For Real**
15. What is something you are proud of? **My husband & girls**
16. What is one of your biggest pet peeves? **Loud chewing**
17. Do you have any brothers or sisters? **Two sisters**
18. What's one place you really want to travel to? **Grand Canyon**
19. What are your favorite TV shows? **Chicago P.D., Chicago Med, & Chicago Fire**
20. If you had to describe yourself in three words, what would they be? **Kind, caring, fun**

Thank you, Denise, for your responses!