

Zeneya (Coleman) Bunn graduated at the end of the Fall 2020 term with her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK). Zeneya was first awarded a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship in the Fall 2015 term for an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education from Southeast Community College (SCC) in Lincoln. She completed 107.5 credits at SCC.

After graduating with her Associate of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education from SCC at the end of the Winter 2018 term, Zeneya then began work on her bachelor's degree at UNK. She was awarded a new T.E.A.C.H. scholarship in the Spring 2020 term at UNK. She completed 31 credits and graduated while working full time as a teacher in a child care program in Lincoln, NE.

Zeneya says, "My name is Zeneya Bunn and I have been with the T.E.A.C.H program since 2015! I started T.E.A.C.H. at the first child care center I worked at in 2015 while attending Southeast Community College - Lincoln majoring in Early Childhood Education - Inclusive. Unfortunately, only a few months into the program, the child care center I was at got shut down. I immediately transferred to another child care center where I was able to get right back on the T.E.A.C.H. program with no issues! T.E.A.C.H allowed me to pursue the degree I wanted with so much extra help and support. I was able to go through my associate degree without having to worry about tuition, books, and having enough time to do homework or complete my practicums with those four hours of homework time.

After completing my associate degree, I was told by my center that they would not allow me to complete my bachelor's degree though T.E.A.C.H. This devastated me, as I wanted to continue my education but could not do it without a little extra support from the T.E.A.C.H. program. I did end up applying at the University of Nebraska - Kearney and started to work on my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education - Inclusive until my contract was up, and I was able to find another sponsoring center that would support my education. I ended up finding a center that would allow me to start back on T.E.A.C.H and even filled out the paperwork with me the day I was hired! I started working toward my bachelor's degree and with the help of the T.E.A.C.H program, I was able to make it through student teaching during the pandemic with the living stipend they offer to those who are student teaching.

I do not think I would have reached these educational goals without the T.E.A.C.H. program and I am always telling others who are in school to look into it because of how much it helped me through college! I am now working towards my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Curriculum and Instruction at Peru State College! I want to give a huge thank you to everyone involved in T.E.A.C.H. for making my goals possible and a big thank you to Julie Warford for being with me every step of the way! Best of luck to everyone on the T.E.A.C.H. program! Stay safe and stay educated!"