

Teresa Gartner graduated at the end of the Summer 2015 term with her Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education degree with High Distinction from Southeast Community College in Lincoln. Teresa was first awarded a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship in the Winter 2012 term. She completed 76 quarter credits at Southeast Community College while working full time for SENCA Head Start – HTRS Collaboration as an assistant teacher for two, three, and four year old children.

“Where do I begin? I cannot express with enough emphasis what being a recipient of the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship has meant to me. Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to make a lifelong dream of mine come true, which is to finally get a degree in Early Childhood. Being chosen for the scholarship has enriched my life in so many ways. It has helped me gain abundant knowledge in the field I am working in with preschool age children, as well as boost my confidence as an educator of young children. My knowledge of young children has increased a hundred fold thanks to all of the wonderful learning experiences I was able to have while taking classes.

I started taking classes in January of 2010 and graduated in September of 2015. Although it seems like a long time, it really did go by fast. I believe it was because all while I was acquiring information and working with children, I was also able to understand more fully the importance of how young children learn, grow, and develop by working hands on with them. I cannot thank the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship enough. I truly feel that getting an Associates of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education degree has opened up a whole new world for me, not only because I can now relate to other co-workers with degrees on a more level playing field, but also because I am confident in my abilities to work with young children and help make a difference in their lives.

Thank you again for choosing me as a scholarship recipient. I will never be able to repay you, but I will continue to implement what I have learned as I support, guide, and nurture young children while they are working on and developing the skills they need to have success not only in the classroom, but throughout the rest of their lives.”

