

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA

Year 2019 Program Evaluation for Scholarship Recipients

98 of 121 returned – 81%

County: Adams (4), Bone (1), Box Butte (1), Buffalo (3), Cass (1), Clay (1), Colfax (1), Cuming (1), Dakota (1), Dawson (4), Dodge (1), Douglas (34), Hall (3), Hooker (1), Keith (1), Lancaster (8), Lincoln (2), Madison (2), Nemaha (1), Otoe (1), Phelps (1), Pierce (1), Platte (2), Richardson (1), Sarpy (6), Scottsbluff (2), Thurston (1), Valley (1), Wayne (1), Woodbury (1), York (1)

College attended: Chadron State (1), CCC (15), MCC (32), NECC (9), SCC (11), UNK (30), and WNCC (1)

Job Position: (please select the one which closest matches your position)

Family Child Care Provider	19	19%
Lead Teacher, Teacher, Teacher Assistant	73	72%
Program Director-Employee	6	6%
Program Director-Owner	3	3%
Other	0	0%
No answer		

How long have you been working in early childhood? (average)

821 years total 8 years 3 months average

Would you have taken courses last year if you did not have a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship?

No	81	82%
Yes, I would have taken the same number of courses.	10	10%
Yes, but I would have taken fewer courses.	8	8%
No answer	0	

Were you working toward a college degree before you learned about T.E.A.C.H.?

Yes	34	36%
No	62	64%
No answer	3	

If No, why not? (check all that apply)

I did not have time to take courses	12	20%
I could not afford tuition, books, etc.	55	88%
Courses were at inconvenient times	4	7%
I was planning to leave the child care field	1	2%
I did not believe I needed more education	1	2%
I had no interest in taking courses	7	12%
Other	7	12%

Completing the number of required course credit hours in one year is:

Very easy	20	20%
About right	66	68%
Somewhat difficult	12	13%
No answer	1	

- It can be stressful
- Working full time taking one class at a time
- Online work is heavier than going to class but online helps with my schedule
- I take 1 class at a time
- Full time job and full time student is hard

- Work
- has been a complicated work year
- I work full time, 2 Kids, and only taking online classes
- time to complete school work
- being part time
- I am not good with computers

The courses that I took were:

Not challenging enough	2	2%
About right	91	96%
Too difficult	2	2%
No answer	3	

The amount of release time provided by the scholarship was:

Too little	13	16%
About right	72	84%
Too much	0	0%
No answer/not applicable	14	

I found having time off during the week when I am taking classes to be:

Extremely important	60	73%
Nice to have	23	27%
Not very important	0	0%
No answer/not applicable	16	

My share of the tuition/books was:

Too little for me to pay	2	2%
About right	90	96%
Too much for me to pay	2	2%
No answer/not applicable	5	

The travel funds that I received for transportation to courses were:

Too little	5	7%
About right	69	93%
Too much	0	0%
No answer/not applicable	25	

The raise/bonus that I receive because of my education is important to me.

Agree strongly	44	65%
Agree somewhat	7	11%
Disagree somewhat	0	0%
Disagree strongly	0	0%
Have not received a bonus/raise yet (skip next question)	16	25%
No answer	32	

I used my bonus money for:

Something for myself or my family	6	10%
Something for my child care/classroom	13	20%
Paid bills	33	52%
Paid my portion of the tuition/book charges	6	8%
Saved it	6	10%
No answer/not applicable	39	
Other	0	0%

I found my sponsoring program to be: (family child care providers skip this question)

Very supportive	62	75%
Somewhat supportive	17	21%
Not supportive	3	4%
No answer/not applicable	17	

As an overall evaluation of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project, how satisfied are you?

Very satisfied	86	88%
Somewhat satisfied	12	13%
Somewhat dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	0	0%
No answer/not applicable	1	

When I needed help, T.E.A.C.H. staff was helpful.

Agree strongly	83	85%
Agree somewhat	14	15%
Disagree somewhat	0	0%
Disagree strongly	0	0%
No answer	2	

Information that I received from T.E.A.C.H. was easy for me to understand.

Agree strongly	78	81%
Agree somewhat	18	19%
Disagree somewhat	0	0%
Disagree strongly	0	0%
No answer	3	

What T.E.A.C.H. resources are you aware of, do you use, and are they helpful?

Website	67	73%
Newsletter	77	85%
Facebook Page	35	37%
Remind App	13	14%
Pinterest	10	11%
Instagram	9	10%
Twitter	6	7%

Would you recommend T.E.A.C.H. scholarships to other people working in child care?

Yes	97	99%
No	1	1%
No answer	1	

If no, why not?

Do you plan to continue your T.E.A.C.H. scholarship in the upcoming year?

Yes	92	94%
No	6	6%
No answer/undecided	1	

If no, why not? (check all that apply)

I am graduating	3	50%
I do not plan to take courses	1	17%
I will not stay in my current center	0	0%

My center will not sponsor me	0	0%
I cannot afford to continue	0	0%
Other	4	67%

How has an increased education helped you? (check all that apply)

I have increased my early childhood knowledge and skills	84	86%
I have improved the quality of my teaching techniques and practice	81	83%
I have increased enthusiasm in the classroom	65	67%
I have influenced coworkers to use new teaching techniques	50	51%
I have improved relationships with the children and their families	70	72%
I am more satisfied with my job	62	64%
I feel more appreciated and recognized for my work	47	48%
I am more willing to stay in my current employment	60	61%
I see myself as an early childhood professional	77	79%
Other	3	3%
I have not noticed any benefit	2	2%
No answer	0	0%

I have used what I have learned with the children in my care/classroom.

Agree	94	98%
Disagree	0	0%
Not sure	2	2%
No answer/not applicable	3	

If agree, please give an example:

I have shared what I have learned with other teachers at work or in the community.

Agree	89	94%
Disagree	3	3%
Not sure	3	3%
No answer/not applicable	4	

If agree, please give an example:

My college offers an adequate number of evening courses.

Always	36	49%
Sometimes	38	50%
Never	1	1%
Don't know, n/a, or blank	23	

My college offers an adequate number of weekend courses.

Always	22	32%
Sometimes	27	38%
Never	20	29%
Don't know, n/a, or blank	29	

My college offers courses at a convenient time for me to attend.

Always	48	55%
Sometimes	36	41%
Never	4	5%
Don't know, n/a, or blank	11	

My college offers an adequate number of courses on the internet.

Always	79	81%
Sometimes	18	19%
Never	0	0%
Don't know, n/a, or blank	2	

My college offers courses in my preferred language for learning:.

Always	89	92%
Sometimes	5	5%
Never	3	3%
Don't know, n/a, or blank	2	

The quality of early childhood instructors at my college is good.

Always	73	76%
Sometimes	23	24%
Never	0	0%
Don't know, n/a, or blank	3	

Early childhood advisors at my college are available.

Always	58	62%
Sometimes	35	37%
Never	1	1%
Don't know, n/a, or blank	5	

The registration process at my college is easy.

Always	67	69%
Sometimes	29	31%
Never	0	0%
Don't know, n/a, or blank	3	

How can the college/university be more helpful to you? (please be specific)

- They can't. They were so helpful getting me started & helping me register.
- They need to offer some classes more regular. There was an advisor shortage.
- Help me figure out how to get my Bachelors quicker.
- Having more advisors who know about the early childhood education program.
- Better guidance for people doing online degrees.
- Provide more class options available in mornings.
- Better communication amongst staff .
- Taking my class online.
- Allowing me to work ahead to fit my work schedule. Informing of time commitment of Field Experience courses.
- They were not knowledgeable about how T.E.A.C.H. scholarships work, but my T.E.A.C.H. advisor was very helpful.
- They have been extremely helpful.
- I haven't started yet.
- I think I have had a great experience working.
- They are helpful.
- Have more classes online available.
- There are a lot of repetitive courses that rely too much on research and not enough on running a classroom or being a teacher, especially in the beginning courses.
- It's just a matter of it starting for me.
- The college can be more helpful to me by better communicating my course needs for my degree.
- I have been very pleased with UNK and my advisors.
- Offering more class times.
- More early ed classes in the evenings.
- The only problem I had was with advisor at MCC but UNK advisor has guided me.
- Wait times over the phone including advising appointments could be better.
- More opportunities for class time, more evening & weekend classes.
- Better communication.
- I would like it if they advised me on classes I could take in my community college instead of just one.

- Better advisors.
- It could response to emails in a timely manner.
- I've had great difficulty getting a hold of advisors at Metro.
- They are amazing.
- Get involved.
- If they offered more scholarships for early childhood education.
- Providing more information about transferring after an Associate's degree.
- I could use more guidance about classes that are not offered online and help knowing where to go to take them.
- I wish they would honor my work experience that would allow me to not take practicums & I could graduate now. Should have been grandfathered in Brandee & Kathy never did the paperwork so now I am stuck.
- Have more evening classes available.
- If advisors were more available and knew people's needs.
- I would like to know what I can access being an online student vs. 2 traditional one.
- Walk me through steps when I have questions instead of telling me to look somewhere else.

What has the scholarship meant to you personally and/or professionally? (Attach additional paper if needed)

- I wouldn't be able to continue my education without it. I feel better equipped & more confident in my work with children because of my education.
- This has been an opportunity I never would have gotten without T.E.A.C.H.. School isn't in our family budget but having this option has been amazing.
- It has helped me a lot in my education. I am so glad that I am lucky enough to have this scholarship.
- T.E.A.C.H. continues to empower me as a young teacher, student, and lifelong learner. This scholarship is the only way for me to further my education and improve my career. I am eternally thankful for this opportunity.
- Having this scholarship is such a blessing I feel like I am a better teacher.
- I could not do college without the scholarship. I work fulltime have 4 young children of my own and my husband works fulltime without the scholarship we couldn't afford for me to go back. I want to get a job in a school but with only a 2 year degree the opportunities are limited. Furthering my education give me that opportunity to one day be able to work outside my home without going into debt to do it and overall better for my family because I won't be stuck with all the debt of going back to school.
- The education & information I'm receiving gives me the courage to stand up for my philosophies
- It has allowed me to go back to school and get my Bachelor's degree.
- A lot I was already \$20,000 in student loan debt from my Associate's degree when I discovered T.E.A.C.H.. This program has allowed me to attend university and I am close to my BA without drowning in more debt. The study time has also made a remarkable difference.
- This scholarship is a great way to further my education. Helps me learn new things.
- It's helped me continue my education towards my degree.
- Receiving the scholarship has given me the motivation to go back to school & finish what I started. It has shown me that this is what I want to do in life.
- I always wanted to go back to school but never had the money. T.E.A.C.H. has given me my drive to finish. It gives me access to things I didn't have before. Professionally it helps because I use the tools I learn in school & apply them to head start. I am truly grateful.
- It has given me the opportunity to continue learning and it is getting me prepared to be an early childhood educator.

- I never thought I would be able to attend college because of the price and never finding my passion and I now can because of both.
- I am confident in my teaching now. I love telling people I am going back to school to further my education.
- To me this means I can get my endorsement and have more knowledge in early childhood. This will also help me when I decide to get a elementary job because it would show that I will make a great teacher.
- I married young and my parents decided not to provide me with their information to apply to go to college. It wasn't until I started working at the daycare when I finally got the support I needed to go back to school. Now at 26 years old I am finally pursuing my education with no one holding me back.
- With the help of the scholarship I am able to afford classes so that I can maintain my employment and someday advance in placement.
- This scholarship means I am able to get an education and still work full time. I love the fact that eventually I will become a teacher.
- T.E.A.C.H. has given me the opportunity to go back to school while raising a family and working. This is something I have thought about for years T.E.A.C.H. helped me to finally do it. I am so happy.
- T.E.A.C.H. has allowed me to pursue my dreams. Without this scholarship there is no way that I would be able to get my teaching certificate which is something I have always wanted. It feels good to have a support system of staff and advisors who want me to be successful.
- This has meant the world to me. If I didn't have this scholarship I wouldn't be able to afford school. I am so very blessed for this opportunity.
- That I can go to school and finish my degree without worrying about not finishing.
- Taking these classes have improved my effectiveness in the daycare & helped the children learn so much more. It will also help me to move up in Step Up to Quality, which will also improve my childcare standing. Since this is how I pay my bills it will make my life smoother by having enough income to meet the needs of myself and my children.
- T.E.A.C.H. has allowed me to further my education without the stress of money getting me off track. I have been able to support my co teacher, my students, and my own children by the knowledge I have gained through the college courses I have taken.
- It has meant a lot. I am able to continue my education in early childhood. I am learning new and valuable teaching strategies with the children I care for. If I didn't have this scholarship then I wouldn't have gone back to school.
- So I haven't started college yet but I'm planning on starting in January. I'm super excited for this opportunity; all of my answers are what I think this will be. I have lots of support.
- Before I had this scholarship it was very difficult to keep up with the work load because I had my son. Now that I am able to get time off, while my son attends school. I can do my homework and not feel so overwhelmed.
- This has given me the chance to go to school when I wouldn't have been able to without. Makes me proud and my family.
- It has helped me make it possible to get my degree.
- Finally able to pursue higher education affordably.
- It has been a life saver. I was at my max for loans and I would not been able to keep going if I didn't have this scholarship.
- Help me reaching my goal.
- This scholarship has helped me take time away from children to learn even more about them, it has given me time to sit back and think deeper on why early Ed is so important and at times give

me a much needed break from the hustle and bustle of early Ed. At work I am one of the 2 males in a sizable staff so being able to show that I am helpful and into early Ed and want to excel professionally as a teacher-this has meant a lot in supporting my confidence for my role at my center and as a teacher.

- I enjoy the opportunity to further my education without more student loan debt.
- The scholarship has given me the opportunity to be able to pursue my degree. With the T.E.A.C.H. grant I can focus on my courses and my goal instead of the problems that would have come from the financial burden that would have been added to my family without the scholarship.
- Personally - a sense of accomplishment and pride that I can get my teaching certificate. Professionally - I am able to bring what I learn in the classroom on field visits/online to my own classroom of teaching and share with other staff
- Helped me grow & feel more comfortable at my job.
- Without this scholarship I would not be attending school. It has made working towards my Bachelor's degree affordable and for me it feels good to be achieving this goal.
- This has given my confidence as a business individual in early childhood development. In a season of life that is about caring for others my cup is full given me an opportunity to work toward a degree, which I would not have thought I would be able to do.
- It is allowing me to continue my education in the field I've always wanted to work in. The support it's giving me will open up more knowledge and more opportunities in my future. I was stuck in what I thought was going to be 1 year break but it turned into a 4 year break because I couldn't afford going back to school. I'm very grateful for T.E.A.C.H..
- More than words can express. I always walk away from every class with an appreciation for my center and my classroom.
- Giving me the opportunity to continue my education and has taken the financial aid off my shoulders. Where I know it will help pay to continue with my career.
- I would not have been able to afford to go back for my early childhood without this scholarship. It has given me a purpose in my profession & a drive to improve the quality of care that I am providing my families.
- The scholarship is the primary vehicle that drives my learning and allows me to reach my passion for teaching children. Professionally it equips me with the knowledge needed to perform my job and advocate for the field.
- I feel as though my value as a person & provider
- This scholarship means everything to me, without it I would not be able to graduate next year.
- I have always loved to learn new things. So I am very thankful for the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship. It has helped me to be a better teacher's aide. I've learned a lot with taking these Early Childhood classes. There is no way to tell you just how thankful and happy I am with this scholarship.
- The scholarship has meant a lot to me educationally. I would not have started my college education if it wasn't for the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship.
- The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship has meant so much to me professionally. I think the communication with my counselor has helped me so much to stay on top of my education.
- It helps me get self-confidence with my coworkers that have a degree in early childhood. Yes I'm just the assistant teacher, but I'm going to school and I have techniques.
- It has made me want to finish school because I'm not spending a lot of money on classes
- It allows me to continue to go to school while working.
- Giving me the opportunity to be paid to go to school and become a better professional educator.
- Furthering my education helps me to be a great and passionate teacher.

- The scholarship has meant a lot to me because I learn that I can get a better education and understanding of what I need to be better in my work life and personal life it has teach me to be aware at what is out there.
- Allows me to financially be able to work towards my degree.
- I recently just got my Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education because of this scholarship now I am continuing on to get my Bachelors in Inclusive Early childhood because of this scholarship. This scholarship is the reason I am furthering my education. It has helped me so much my job is easier because I understand my children better and know what to do.
- It's made a great impact in my life. It is very successful to go back to college. Anyone could go refresh their mind. It has been a challenge to me. I am very pleased. It is so fun to go to college and getting involved is the best thing to do.
- The scholarship has meant a lot to me because it helped me through tuition. Having this scholarship makes me focus more on my lads and personal life. I love how this helps. It changes my life.
- T.E.A.C.H. means a lot to me. I'm very grateful for the opportunity and to be able to finish my college degree.
- It has meant a lot to me. I am very thankful for the opportunity to learn new things and apply it to my job. It also feels good to be able to go to school and take time to study without having to worry about how you're going to balance work and school.
- The scholarship had given me the opportunity to finish my degree by financial support and time off for studies classes. I appreciate the chance for bonuses.
- I would have never gone back to school without this scholarship. It allows me to show my kids you can finish what you start. It's also allows me to make up in my job so I am not feeling sick
- T.E.A.C.H. has given me hope for a better future for me and my children as well.
- It has allowed me to continue my education when I didn't think it was possible. My daycare families see more of my dedication as well because I'm going for my degree.
- T.E.A.C.H. has helped me so much. I am able to do what I love It means so much to be able to continue my education. It helped me so much when I didn't know how I was going to pay for school.
- It has definitely helped take much of the financial burden off.
- I needed it to take classes otherwise I couldn't afford it.
- It has been wonderful to have. I would not be able to afford college without it. I would not be able to have the job that I have without going to school because I have to be enrolled in classes to work there.
- I have taken Early Childhood in the past but never completed and received my degree with the scholarship I am able to work on finally getting my degree.
- It has truly helped me financially and provided me with study time to do my classwork. Thanks in advance T.E.A.C.H. has also been very help & patient in getting my PRAXIS.
- This scholarship has helped me further my education, become a better teacher, and without this scholarship I would have never been able to go to schoolI get to further my education. I have a boy with cerecal palsy and I want to help other kids like him.
- It is extremely important to me. I am unable to pay tuition myself and I would have to give up my dream of becoming a teacher if it were not for T.E.A.C.H. I feel really passionate about my work with children and would be sad to leave the field.
- It has allowed me to continue my education while still working full time so I can afford my rent and bills.

- The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship has renewed confidence in me. By allowing me to go back to school and furthering my education. There's so much support and resources available. T.E.A.C.H. has provided me the opportunity to return to school which I didn't think I would be able to (financially).
- The financial burden of college was taken off my shoulders. I can now focus on my studies, enjoy work, and earn my Bachelor's degree.
- I have been able to complete my degree without building more debt.
- It has given me a chance at a life time goal and has given me a better outlook on my career.
- It has helped me realize that I do like going to school and learning but that working with children really isn't for me.
- It has really helped me financially and allows me to take more courses to finish my degree sooner. This scholarship had truly been a blessing to me.

How can T.E.A.C.H. be more helpful to you? (Please be specific)

- I think being more aware that as a new person we don't know how everything works.
- You guys do great I really appreciate you guys.
- Just quicker response times with emails & the checks when they are due.
- My dream is to achieve a master's degree. I am hopeful that T.E.A.C.H. may help make that dream come true at some point.
- It was a wonderful experience that I may see if another time works for me in my life. I hope when I am ready to go back there is still funds for me.
- The T.E.A.C.H. program and Julie have been very helpful.
- Sending out more emails about information that needs to be turned in & more questionnaires about the scholarship.
- Be more understanding with people. We all go through struggles.
- I think you are doing a great job I love the inspiring quotes you send.
- I wish there was more accountability for the sponsoring program to be flexible when needing to use release hours. It always seems to be a battle to use the 4 hours a week we are allowed.
- They do a great job.
- T.E.A.C.H. has given me a wonderful opportunity to improve myself as a teacher as well as a mother and to further my education.
- T.E.A.C.H. has been very helpful to me I think by checking in with me every now and then to see how classes or personally how I am doing could be helpful. Encouragement to keep working hard.
- Its been very helpful the way its been. I haven't had any difficulties.
- I think it is helpful to me I do not have any suggestions.
- I think you guys do great.
- More information how they can help me more.
- I think T.E.A.C.H. does a great job already, I feel there is a great community to rely on and help support each other through our continuing education. Thank you for all the help now and in the future.
- By continuing to support me as I take classes.
- I am pleased with T.E.A.C.H. and the help I've received.
- My experience has been great so far.
- I've had no problems.
- It is an outstanding program and is a helpful with what it does including Julie Warford who responds quickly and effectively with what I need to reach my goals. Thanks you.

- Practicums are so hard to complete. I don't know how T.E.A.C.H. can help but I'm having such a hard time finding ways to do it.
- T.E.A.C.H. has been very helpful for me because I learn that I can set my mind and get a higher education.
- I would like more time off so I can focus much better on the homework and everything.
- Having more guidance on where to transfer so I can take the classes I need to finish.
- I think it's a great scholarship. However I do think the fact that you have to stay employed 18 months after you graduate needs to be talked about more so everyone has the option to decide if they should be done earlier. It is hard to stay once graduation is done when a great job opportunity is out there and have to be passed up.
- More time off to complete work.
- They have been great. They always send reminders. They send them through the mail. Is there any way to get reminders through text or something?
- Talk to employers about T.E.A.C.H. release time. I always do my homework on the weekend because there is no coverage to get my T.E.A.C.H. time during the week.
- I would like to hear more about the transportation funds. I drive to some classes and do not know what this is.
- Just help make sure that the bosses/directors are more supportive for the employee to go to school.