

TEACH Early Childhood® Nebraska Newsletter

Student Spotlight

Michaela Schwery graduated at the end of the summer 2024 term with her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She was first awarded a Bachelor Degree Gap scholarship in the fall 2022 term. Michaela completed 82.5 transferrable credits at Metropolitan Community College. She then transitioned into a Bachelor Degree scholarship in the summer 2024 term to complete her final 15 credits. Michaela completed her coursework as a wife and mother while working full time as a teacher for a Head Start program in Omaha.



Michaela says, "The TEACH scholarship has done amazing things for me. First, I was able to work full time as well as going to school. I was able to get full support from my center being able to leave for TEACH time and study or get my homework done. I was able to complete all my coursework in a faster time than I imagined by pushing myself and having full support that I can do it from TEACH. I planned a wedding, had my first baby, and was the interim lead for my classroom all while going to school. I was able to use my bonuses for self-care items that made it even more worth it to continue to finish. I finally finished with my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Inclusive with a 3.9 GPA! Thank you TEACH for your support and being able to use your scholarship to finish completing my dream. Now, my next step is my masters!"

"I wouldn't have decided to continue my education without this scholarship. I am able to grow as a child care professional with the help of this scholarship."

2024 Survey

Dates To Remember

Office Closed: July 4th

Thriving Children, Families,
& Communities
Conference: September
16th

TEACH & WAGE\$ Advisory
Team Meeting: September
24th

Congratulations!

This spring, we had NINE graduates! While on TEACH...

- ⇒ Christina from Omaha graduated with her Associate Degree WITH HONORS from Metropolitan Community College. Since Winter 2020, Christina completed six contracts and 76.5 credits.
- ⇒ Carissa from Omaha graduated with her Associate Degree from Metropolitan Community College. Since Winter 2022, Carissa completed three contracts and 72 credits.
- ⇒ Jessica from Omaha graduated with her Associate Degree WITH HONORS from Metropolitan Community College. Since Spring 2018, Jessica completed five contracts and 83 credits.
- ⇒ Makenzi from Shelby graduated with her Diploma and Associate Degree from Central Community College in Columbus. Since Fall 2023, Makenzi completed two contracts and 26 credits.
- ⇒ Natalie from Kearney graduated with her Associate Degree from Central Community College in Grand Island. Since Spring 2022, Natalie completed four contracts and 30 credits.
- ⇒ Stacey from Omaha graduated with her Associate Degree WITH HONORS from Metropolitan Community College. Since Fall 2023, Stacey completed two contracts and 69 credits.
- ⇒ Aniston from Omaha graduated with her Associate Degree WITH HONORS from Metropolitan Community College. Since Fall 2023, Aniston completed two contracts and 90 credits.
- ⇒ Kristin from Norfolk graduated with her Associate Degree from Northeast Community College. Since Spring 2022, Kristin completed four contracts and 54 credits.
- ⇒ Christina from Lincoln graduated with her Associate Degree WITH DISTINCTION from Southeast Community College. Since Spring 2022, Christina completed four contracts and 65 credits.

We are proud of all of you!



***We are expecting two more Associate Degree graduates after the current summer term.
We are also expecting two more Associate Degree graduates, as well as two Bachelor Degree graduates after
the upcoming fall term.***

Fall Term School Schedules (Start / End)

CCC: 8/18—12/12

UNK: 8/25—12/19

MCC: 9/2—11/17

NECC: 8/18—12/5

SCC: 8/18—12/12

WNCC: 8/18—12/12



Our other partnering schools are Little Priest Tribal College, Mid-Plains Community College, and Nebraska Indian Community College & Chadron State College, Peru State College, Wayne State College, and the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. We currently don't have any students at those schools.

Loss of Funding for Child Care WAGE\$® Nebraska

Have you heard of Child Care WAGE\$®?

Child Care WAGE\$® is a program that provides education-based salary supplements to low-paid early care and education providers working with children, ages birth to five, in licensed child care settings. This program is designed to increase retention, education, and compensation of the early childhood workforce. TEACH and WAGE\$ go hand-in-hand! TEACH is a means to support individuals, such as yourself, as they work their way up the WAGE\$ scale and increase their education. Participants in both programs can receive TEACH bonuses and WAGE\$ incentives simultaneously!



However, due to loss of funding, we will no longer be able to offer this opportunity in our state. When we did receive funding, we were only able to offer this opportunity to family child care providers. However, the ultimate goal was to be able to offer it to anyone working in early childhood. Since we awarded our first supplement in 2020, we have been trying to get additional funding from other sources, such as our state legislature, but nothing has come to fruition. Please use your voices to advocate for programs such as this and TEACH! If you need help finding your representative's contact information, please let me know.



Nebraska Association for the
Education of Young Children

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Nebraska Association for the
Education of Young Children

20 Questions

This month's section of "20 Questions" features Kristin from Madison County. She is currently a family child care provider in Norfolk. She began on TEACH with a Associate Degree Scholarship in the Spring 2022 term.

1. **Where were you born?** Yankton, SD
2. **If you could meet someone famous, past or present, who would it be?** Princess Diana
3. **What is your favorite book?** I love books! Any fun, upbeat children's book
4. **What is one of your biggest pet peeves?** People who repeat the same thing
5. **What's one place you really want to travel to?** Mackinac Island
6. **What are your favorite TV shows?** Chicago Fire, PD, & Med
7. **What's your least favorite subject in school?** History
8. **Do you have any brothers or sisters?** 3 Brothers, 1 Sister
9. **What is your favorite season?** Fall
10. **Do you have a favorite holiday?** All of them! Time off is always refreshing!
11. **What's your favorite food?** Anything with chicken
12. **What do you like to do in your free time?** Camp & scrapbook
13. **What's one thing you can't live without?** Coffee & grandchild
14. **Would you rather live in a place that was always hot or a place that was always cold?** Cold
15. **What is something you wish you could do?** Be patient
16. **If I weren't a teacher, I'd be...** A personal chef for a wealthy person
17. **What is your favorite movie?** Sweet Home Alabama
18. **What is your favorite color?** Red
19. **Do you prefer writing in pen or pencil?** Pen
20. **What's your favorite subject in school?** Math

