



A Program of Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children

TEACH Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Year 2025

Program Evaluation for Scholarship Recipients

76 responses / 81 Recipients (93.8%)

- 60 responses returned via **online digital survey**
- 16 responses returned via **physical mail survey/e-mail**

County: Adams (2), Boone, Box Butte (3), Buffalo (3), Cass, Colfax, Dakota (2), Dawson, Deuel, Dodge, Douglas (17), Gage, Hall (3), Harrison, Holt, Jefferson, Knox, Lancaster (14), Lincoln, Madison, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Phelps, Platte (4), Richardson, Sarpy (2), Scottsbluff (3), Sheridan, Thurston, York (2)

College attended:

- Central Community College (**14**)
- Metro Community College (**17**)
- Mid-Plains Community College (**1**)
- Nebraska Indian Community College (**1**)
- Northeast Community College (**5**)
- Southeast Community College (**16**)
- University of Nebraska-Kearney (**18**)
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln (**1**)
- Western Nebraska Community College (**3**)

Job position:

- Family Child Care Provider- **15 (20%)**
- Lead Teacher, Teacher, Teacher Assistant- **58 (76%)**
- Program Director-Employee- **1 (1%)**
- Program Director-Owner- **2 (3%)**

How long have you been working in early childhood?

- **678** years total
- **8.9** years on average

Would you have taken courses if you did not have a TEACH scholarship?

- No- **57 (75%)**
- Yes, but I would have taken fewer courses- **10 (13%)**
- Yes, I would have taken the same number of courses- **9 (12%)**

Were you working toward a college degree before you learned about TEACH?

- No- **54 (71%)**
- Yes- **22 (29%)**

If no, why not:

- I could not afford tuition, books, etc.- **37 (70%)**
- I had no interest in taking courses- **13 (25%)**
- I did not have time to take courses- **11 (21%)**
- I did not believe I needed more education- **3 (6%)**
- I was planning to leave the childcare field- **2 (4%)**
- Courses were at inconvenient times- **2 (4%)**
- Other- **4 (8%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **2 (4%)**
- **Comments:**
 - Previous degree/student loans
 - I always wanted to further my education in Early Childhood and just never pursued it and this program gave me the privilege of doing so
 - Just didn't think about it
 - When I first went to college after high school I was doing Social work. But then the classes got to hard tgen i did one semester of FCS but because of Covid and veing fully online i struggled to do classes. So I dropped put and by then I was working at a daycare and since I didn't need a degree I didn't go back to school to get one until I heard about the T.E.A.C.H grant and my boss asked if I would go back to school to get my degree and I said yes.

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

- About right- **51 (67%)**
- Very easy- **17 (22%)**
- Somewhat difficult- **8 (11%)**
- **Comments:**
 - Managing work time (daycare owner), family life (mom of three) at the same time
 - Essays / need an little more to comprehend and practice more.
 - Struggling with getting planning time in at work which is where I do my school work most of the time. Home life can be crazy and not always easy to focus on school work when kids are all over me and fighting. Pregnancy brain hasn't helped this year either.
 - Working full time while in college is difficult
 - Technology is hard for me sometimes.
 - Having a full time job and single parent to 4 kids.
 - Working full time its a little hard.
 - Running a childcare & part time coach & mother & wife working full time is crazy
 - Sometimes I feel like instructors forget that we are not just college students. Some of us are students that work full time and some of us are single parents that have to manage the home and education life all at once. Therefore, sometimes the work for the class and finding time to leave work for observing is difficult.

The courses I took were:

- About right- **75 (99%)**
- Too difficult- **1 (1%)**
- Not challenging enough- **0 (0%)**
- **Comments:**
 - My lack of computer knowledge
 - English + math have been the most challenging

The amount of release time provided by the scholarship was:

- About right- **60 (79%)**
- Too little- **12 (20%)**
- Too much- **1 (1%)**

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

- Extremely important- **47 (62%)**
- Nice to have- **28 (37%)**
- Not very important- **1 (1%)**

My share of the tuition/books was:

- About right- **71 (94%)**
- Too much for me to pay- **4 (5%)**
- Too little for me to pay- **0 (0%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **1 (1%)**

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

- About right- **67 (90%)**
- Too little- **7 (9%)**
- Too much- **0 (0%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **2 (1%)**

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

- Agree strongly- **48 (64%)**
- Agree somewhat- **6 (7%)**
- Disagree somewhat- **0 (0%)**
- Disagree strongly- **0 (0%)**
- Have not received bonus/raise yet- **21 (28%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **1 (1%)**

I used my bonus money for: (check all that apply)

- Paid bills- **25 (37%)**
- Something for my childcare/classroom- **11 (16%)**
- Something for myself or my family- **8 (12%)**
- Paid my portion of the tuition/book- **6 (9%)**
- Saved it- **6 (9%)**
- Other- **1 (1%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **29 (38%)**

I found my sponsoring program to be:

- Very supportive- **47 (62%)**
- Somewhat supportive- **19 (25%)**
- Not supportive- **6 (8%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **4 (5%)**
- **Comments:**
 - Staffing issues make it hard
 - I wish that they would have looked at my courses etc before having me enroll into SCC. I took classes there that I needed so many classes to graduate from UNK that it was pointless. Now I am doing more classes to get the required number of hours at UNK to graduate
 - Need to figure out consistent "TEACH" time, 4 hrs for studies each week
 - I do not get release time, I never get checked on and I have not received a raise.
 - I have not been given my time off because we're too short staffed
 - Do not get the time off
 - I am short staffed and given extra duties with no paid time for school.
 - They claim to be flexible and allow me to have the release time but I have not been allowed any that has been paid.

As an overall evaluation of the TEACH Early Childhood® program, how satisfied are you?

- Very satisfied- **58 (77%)**
- Somewhat satisfied- **16 (21%)**
- Somewhat dissatisfied- **0 (0%)**
- Very dissatisfied- **1 (1%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **1 (1%)**
- **Comments:**
 - I feel uncomfortable talking to the teach staff.
 - Getting reimbursement on a regular schedule would be very beneficial

When I needed help, TEACH staff were helpful.

- Agree strongly- **55 (73%)**
- Agree somewhat- **19 (25%)**
- Disagree somewhat- **1 (1%)**
- Disagree strongly- **0 (0%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **1 (1%)**
- **Comments:**
 - I feel like there are many things that were not communicated.
 - I feel there was some overlap in classes that could have been avoided had there been better communication or explanations between advisors at the various schools. I did better once I was my own advisor and chartered my own path.

Information that I received from TEACH was easy for me to understand:

- Agree strongly- **54 (72%)**
- Agree somewhat- **19 (25%)**
- Disagree somewhat- **1 (1%)**
- Disagree strongly- **1 (1%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **1 (1%)**
- **Comments:**
 - Julie always helps if I misunderstand !!

What TEACH resources do you use? (Check all that apply)

- Website- **52 (68%)**
- Newsletter- **45 (59%)**
- Facebook- **8 (11%)**
- Instagram- **2 (3%)**
- Other- **2 (3%)**
- None - **4 (5%)**
- **Comments:**
 - Emails
 - The National Association for the Education of young children book

Would you recommend TEACH scholarships to other people working in child care?

- Yes- **74 (97%)**
- No- **2 (3%)**
- **Comments:**
 - Not for working full time ppl who might have a lot pressure

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

- Yes- **68 (89%)**
- No- **8 (11%)**
- **If no, why not?**
 - I am graduating- **7 (77%)**
 - I do not plan to take courses- **1 (11%)**
 - My program will not sponsor me- **1 (11%)**
 - Waiting for people to graduate before my turn- **1 (11%)**
 - I will not stay in my current program- **0 (0%)**
 - I cannot afford to continue- **0 (0%)**
 - No answer/not applicable- **67 (89%)**

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

- I have increased my early childhood knowledge and skills- **72 (95%)**
- I have improved the quality of my teaching techniques and practices- **67 (88%)**
- I see myself as an early childhood professional- **59 (78%)**
- I have improved relationships with the children and their families- **54 (71%)**
- I have increased enthusiasm in the classroom- **53 (70%)**
- I have influenced coworkers to use new teaching techniques- **39 (51%)**
- I am more satisfied with my job- **36 (47%)**
- I am more willing to stay in my current employment- **36 (47%)**
- I feel more appreciated and recognized for my work- **28 (37%)**
- Other- **3 (4%)**
- I have not noticed any benefits- **2 (3%)**
- **Comments:**
 - Feel more advance and will practice the skills on behalf on my daycare more
 - I know I will have the skills for career advancement to help me care for my family
 - I love that I'm doing this first for me! So others benefit too

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

- Agree- **74 (97%)**
- Disagree- **2 (3%)**
- Not sure- **0 (0%)**

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

- Agree- **72 (94%)**
- Disagree- **2 (3%)**
- Not sure- **2 (3%)**

My college offers an adequate number of evening courses.

- Always- **39 (53%)**
- Sometimes- **31 (41%)**
- Never- **4 (4%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **2 (2%)**

My college offers an adequate number of weekend courses.

- Always- **26 (36%)**
- Sometimes- **30 (39%)**
- Never- **16 (21%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **4 (4%)**

My college offers courses at convenient times for me to attend.

- Always- **50 (67%)**
- Sometimes- **23 (30%)**
- Never- **1 (1%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **2 (2%)**

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

- Always- **65 (86%)**
- Sometimes- **11 (14%)**
- Never- **0 (0%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **0 (0%)**

My college offers courses in my preferred language for learning.

- Always- **70 (93%)**
- Sometimes- **2 (4%)**
- Never- **3 (3%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **0 (0%)**

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

- Always- **62 (82%)**
- Sometimes- **14 (18%)**
- Never- **0 (0%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **0 (0%)**

Early childhood advisors at my college are available.

- Always- **62 (82%)**
- Sometimes- **14 (18%)**
- Never- **0 (0%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **0 (0%)**

The registration process at my college is easy.

- Always- **61 (80%)**
- Sometimes- **14 (19%)**
- Never- **1 (1%)**
- No answer/not applicable- **0 (0%)**

How can the college/university be more helpful to you?

- There is nothing I currently need help with from the college
- Honestly, I really dislike the registration process at UNK. Wish they wouldn't lock your acct until advisor meeting + confusion w/ "shopping cart"
- Have courses that focus on Family Child care or offer a certificate, associates, or degree for family home childcare
- Maybe more in person classes
- Everyone I have worked with at the college has been very helpful. When I felt unclear, they were happy to help me understand a process or clear up confusion. Everyone I have worked with at my college has been supportive.
- They are doing great!
- To prepare for the future and be successful in life. Also having potential to help to be positively impact with families and children's in this world .
- The ability to take a pre-practicum course before taking any main courses, so they are not done last
- They are always helpful and friendly.

- It is very hard to reach my advisor on my schedule.
- My college has been very helpful to me.
- My experience has been excellent!
- Educators and advisors have been very helpful, I'm currently in the process of applying and getting approved for Student Teaching and my advisor and Field Experience Director at UNK have been very helpful in guiding me and answering any questions that I have had.
- Everything is fine as of right now.
- I think Southeast does a great job supporting each student and their needs.
- I'm honestly good. I do most things online, and if I have questions I call.
- More computer support
- they are already helpful
- Offering evening Math classes
- I have had great experiences, my advisor is always available when I needed them.
- I feel everyone at the university has been helpful with what i need.
- I have been supported, I do not have anything that comes to mind!
- Look at all ideas as full time worker / parttime / mom / wife its a lot
- They have been extremely helpful.
- Be available to answer questions and respond to emails in a timely manner.
- unknown
- I am a transfer student at Northeast Community College and I feel extremely satisfied at my college. I have had all the help that I need.
- Through CCC I am not given an advisor since I'm going to be finishing my degree at UNK
- Continue to be helpful!
- It was harder to get into contact with advisors when I graduated and took more transferable courses. A lot of hoops to go around, because I was no longer in a particular degree. I was taking courses as an "undeclared" degree. Having an advisor that I was already connected with be able to assist me would've been helpful.
- Update, date/link-check from semester to semester. Online courses have so many dead links and inaccurate deadlines.
- There has been a switch in advisors and it has been a hard transition and getting emails and signing up for classes.
- Continue awesome communication
- They have been amazing and does not need improvement
- I really had to spend time on the web comparing classes form SCC to unk and then advocating for myself that this class is equivalent to this class and that I should get a waiver. It was really a lot of work for me and I wish I had more of a champion on my corner for this process. Doing SCC first coat me an entire semester which was frustrating. Wish this was better with initial advising with teach.
- Just keeping in mind when setting up for courses that not all students are your traditional college students. Some work full time or are single parents trying to manage it all.
- My instructor really needs to align the dates that things are due.

What has the scholarship meant to you personally and/or professionally?

- It has meant that I can continue my education and become a better teacher for children
- The scholarship has meant that I can continue my education when I thought I was done with my learning journey. As far as my job - since I teach under a waiver, I already have the job I am going to, when I graduate - so there isn't necessarily 'excitement' for a new job or promotion. However, the unexpected aspect of this opportunity has been uplifting and honestly incredible, is the way it has affected my life as a mom. My youngest, a 4-year old boy, is non-verbal and developmentally challenged. When he was born, I hadn't taken many ECED classes, let alone SPED/inclusive classes. This scholarship has given me the opportunity to see his development in an educated way. I have become an advocate for my son, and other DD children, in a way I didn't know was possible. I've been given a literal gift of knowledge that benefits my son as much as myself! And other children who have exceptionalities that come into my life. We owe it to others to collaborate, relay and demonstrate what we have learned because of this program. So to me, it's much more than an opportunity to make more money, or not have more student loans. Its become a tool that has allowed me to stand up for my son, understand more about how and why his brain works the way it does, and feel a sense of peace, that he has access to someone with special education experience whether he is at home, or at school. Thank you sooo much!!
- It means that I can have a better job and be more prepared for what i actually want to do after I finish school.
- Has allowed me to work towards my degree
- The scholarship has meant a great deal to me. Personally, it has given me confidence and motivation, knowing that others believe in my potential. Professionally, it has allowed me to focus more on my studies and goals without the added stress of financial pressure. I'm truly grateful for the support.
- It is helping me learn more and be more prepared to help and guido our little kids in the classroom.
- It has allowed me to continue my studies, relating such to my experience + vice versa
- This scholarship means that I am able to continue my education. Without it, I wouldn't be able to afford to continue on with my schooling.
- It means everything to me, in my job and in my personal life. I am showing my daughters that there is no time limit on anything, you can go back to school later in life and still be successful!
- The ability to attend college while working
- In my personal perspective is to continue and be involved in the community and having compassion and getting closer to my goal pursuing my dream .Being professional allowed me to build confidence and focus and understand the purpose what classes I am taking will analyze to improving my outcomes and influences on my academic to aim increases my performance.Over all it value me as I work with children. las t contributes to be successful individual around the development of society .
- The ability to help achieve one of my lifetime goals that I have set for myself
- It has meant that I can afford to take more classes at a time and work toward my degree a lot faster
- It has given me a second chance at higher education and has helped me pay for tuition and stay out of debt.
- Has allowed me to better my education and open doors for me.
- I am starting over as a newly single mom of 5 kids, I love my job and especially working w/ special needs kiddos.

- Personally, this scholarship has been very helpful in helping me better my education.
- I did not have to worry about the finances needed to pursue a higher education degree.
- It has helped me further my carrier
- That i can do more
- It has helped me better myself, and knowing that I can keep going and get the degree that I want. It has also helped me show my kids that you can still achieve your goals.
- It has helped provide me with the opportunity to complete my education to obtain a degree in Early Childhood to improve my knowledge + become accredited.
- Everything! Without it, I would have not returned to school to pursue my Bachelor's Degree. It's an amazing feeling knowing that I'm close to graduating and it's all thanks to this scholarship.
- The scholarship is providing me with the opportunity to be the 1st graduating college student from my family
- It has given me the opportunity to pursue my dream of furthering my education in Early Childhood.
- This scholarship has given me the opportunity to learn and grow in my career. Thank you!
- I am excited about taking classes now! I can't wait to get my degree a year from now!!
- Being able to learn more about early childhood
- It helps to do school without as much worry about it financially.
- The scholarship has meant a lot to me personally and professionally. Personally, it's helping me build a better future for my family. It allows me to work toward higher income and more stability. It has also given me confidence. I'm proving to myself that I can go to college, balance life, and keep growing. I already loved teaching, but this makes me feel proud of myself in a new way. Professionally, TEACH has pushed me from being a good teacher into becoming a great one. I'm learning the "why" behind of what I do. It's helping me understand child development on a deeper level, use better strategies and really support the children in my care.
- The scholarship has allowed me to work on my degree without the stress of paying for college
- Support
- It has given me the opportunity to go back to school
- Help get me to my goals in my educational journey with less financial stress.
- It has allowed me to focus on my education without worry of funds.
- Learning and growth
- This opportunity to receive the scholarship and continue my education means the world to me. I would not have been able to continue my education if it weren't for the TEACH scholarship.
- The scholarship has been the biggest opportunity for me to accomplish my education goals.
- Even if I got it they don't give it to me, because I just taking two classes. I think it is not fair.
- It's meant I am able to work on contiuiung and finishing my education that I have been working on for about 15 years. Due to funds I have not been able to take classes as often as i would have liked to be able to get it completed.
- Its a way to gain my education with extended support, help and resources!
- It has mean a lot because I don't think I would be this far in my education without it!
- Keeps me going
- This has allowed me to increase my income to be able to support myself and my two kids as a single mom.
- This scholarship helps me get my bachelors degree and it helps with tuition.
- Helped me further my education
- I gave me the confidence to go back to school.

- Means that I am able to continue furthering my career and education.
- opened the door to college education
- The scholarship gave me the confidence to keep growing and pursuing my dreams. It allowed me to focus on my career goals and development. It has been very helpful that I am able to use professional development time to complete my classes.
- It has help with the expenses of courses
- It means the world to me! I never wanted to go back to school. But with an amazing opportunity I felt like I couldn't pass it up. And now I wouldn't change it. It's been an amazing feeling to have so much support!
- I am very grateful for it. I wouldn't be able to complete my degree and in the highest degree that I was wanting to achieve without it. It has helped significantly with financial abilities between work, school and personal life.
- Reduces financial burden, provides release time from work, and enables my career growth.
- I have been able to work on an inclusive endorsement- something I wouldn't have done without TEACH.
- It has meant that I can continue working towards my bachelor's degree. I will be the first in my family with a bachelor's and it feels amazing. My parents worked very hard for us to receive a better education and therefore this scholarship means I can work hard and get a higher education for them.
- Blessed! Xoox over + over!
- I means a lot to because I am able to go to college and hopefully finish. It has helped a lot to cover for my courses and books so I can continue my education dir my job but also to prove to my daughter that I can do it and that we go after what we want.
- This has given me a new confidence in myself
- I am graduating after 29 years. I have the paper many see as more professional and can refer to it to prove to others my worth though in my daily I know I am a great provider. It will open opportunities for me as I age out of providing care.
- For me, I would not be where I am today without the TEACH scholarship or without my employer. I have been in school for 20 years and will finally graduate in May 2026 with my Bachelor's Degree. Without the financial assistance I would never be where I am! I am grateful for being able to reach this goal I have had for many years. I have taken one class at a time because I couldn't afford more but with the help of the scholarship I was able to take more to complete more faster!
- It has provided me the opportunity to attend college.

How can TEACH be more helpful to you?

- The only thing that has caught me off guard a little - and I probably shouldn't have been as surprised as I was, was the difference in refunds + "pay in" when going from a community college to a university. I wish there were just a little more warning or notice - but I might have missed it. Small price to pay !!
- I think its just perfect!
- TEACH has been very helpful to me. Julie has answered any question that I have had in a clear and timely manner.
- You are doing great!
- As a Educator it has motivated me to improved and impact me in a passion way. By having the tools working in a home provider to spark the class . Using settings arranged the classrooms and having lessons plans-and resources and engaging . Also collaborating

teaching arrangements. and attending workshops and conferences. Specifically helps set boundaries and practices mindfulness and meditation. On my journey becoming a better teacher every step by step makes impact with children lives. Is very important.

- Continue with the flexibility to take a break a term when needed.
- Has been great
- It has been an awesome experience
- TEACH has been very helpful to me.
- They already provide all the help I need
- Can't think of anything at this time.
- Its been very helpful already
- TEACH had already been so helpful that I don't feel anything needs to be changed.
- Providing more release hours when practicum classes are involved as I do use my hours to do school work at work when able.
- TEACH has already been really helpful for me. There isn't much more I need. The support has been great.
- It easy to understand
- It has been great, please continue to do what you do. Thank you Julie for always being available when I have questions.
- Since I take my classes all on line I am not sure what night and weekend classes are available anymore since that is not what I look at. It would be nice with the survey to have an unknown or N/A for some of these questions.
- They have all been extremely helpful!
- They are helpful enough
- Subs provided
- TEACH is doing wonderful things.
- I think TEACH is already very helpful. I feel supported and every time I reach out to Julie, she always answers very quickly to answer questions. Overall, I love the TEACH scholarship!
- Julie has been great to work with.
- Continue to be kind and helpful!
- TEACH has been very patient and helpful when I had questions. It has been a good process going through transfers and figuring out what route is best for me when completing my education.
- TEACH has already been super helpful.
- Keep cheering us on and advocating for ECED! Thank you! Sooo much!
- TEACH has been amazing and doesnt need improvement
- Working with schools to be sure the paths are actually viable for students. Yes classes transfer but don't always count properly. Ie a class at SCC was a 200 level and would not count as hl for me at unk requiring another filler high-level class adding to my years in school
- It is great the way it is!