



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska Newsletter

Student Spotlight

Zoe Sutherland graduated at the end of the spring 2024 term with her Associates Degree from Metropolitan Community College in Omaha. She was first awarded an Associate Degree scholarship in the winter 2019 term. Zoe completed 75 credits and completed her coursework while working full time as an assistant director for a child care program in Omaha.



Zoe says, “The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship has meant more to me than I can really put in words, but I am going to try my best.

During my sophomore year of high school, I started working part time at a child development center. Through getting this experience at such a young age, I found myself really enjoying working with kids. When I graduated high school, the child development center I was at was really struggling on needing full time staff. With me just getting out of high school, and not fully sure where I wanted to go to college, I took this as an opportunity to get more experience and save more money by switching to full time at my center. While this was amazing for a lot of reasons, this also really took me a step back from continuing my education. Every time I attempted to start college, something just seemed to get in the way. Whether it was my work schedule, class costs, or my own personal motivation.

(Continued on next page.)

“The scholarship to me personally has meant a great deal. It allows me to continue my education and develop my skills as a child care provider for my parents and kids.”

2023 Survey

Dates To Remember

Julie Out Of Office: July 4th—12th

Julie Out Of Office: August 15th—16th

Thriving Children, Families, & Communities Conference: September 17th

T.E.A.C.H. & WAGES Advisory Team Meeting: September 25th

Student Spotlight (Continued)

Then I learned about the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship. I had been out of school for some time, but I knew I wanted to continue to work with kids, and so applying for the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship seemed like the perfect opportunity. I ended up getting the scholarship and truly I do not know if I ever would have got the chance to go back to school if it was not for it. Due to this scholarship and its agreements, I got time off work to focus on school, I did not have the stress of living paycheck to paycheck to try and afford classes, and I got to learn more about something I truly care about and further my education in early childhood. Throughout my scholarship process, I had amazing support from the owner at my job, and amazing support from my counselor. Julie Warford genuinely answered any question I had, replied to me quickly, and made me feel like I could ask for help and/or talk about whatever I needed. I genuinely feel like having a good counselor that makes you feel comfortable to ask whatever, as well as being supportive throughout the years you will work with them while having this scholarship, is such an important thing.

Fast forward to some years later and I finally graduated from Metro this Spring of 2024. Due to finally graduating with an Associates Degree and getting the confidence to do school while working full time, I have decided to further my degree in Behavioral Science/Counseling. I would not have been able to do any of this without the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship, and for that I am forever thankful. This scholarship gives educators like me the opportunity to work while furthering their career, as well as feeling like you are a part of a team. Throughout having this scholarship, I have talked to other students that also have the scholarship, as well as got to meet some amazing staff that left a huge positive impact on me. I am currently an Assistant Director of the building I have now been at for ten years, and this scholarship is something I brag about to all my incoming teachers, and/or teachers that are wanting to further their education. The T.E.A.C.H. program is not only changing educators' lives, but it is also helping set our future children in early childhood up for success by supporting their educators. Thank you so much, T.E.A.C.H.!!!!!!!"



If you would like to be featured in our "Student Spotlight" section, please send an email to jwarford@nebraskaeyc.org and tell us about what the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship has meant to you!

FAFSA Reminder

The T.E.A.C.H. program **requires** all students to apply for federal financial aid. This policy has allowed us to utilize federal financial aid dollars and save the T.E.A.C.H. program **THOUSANDS** of dollars! Many of our students were excited to learn that they qualified for additional financial aid. (You can use both federal financial aid and the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship at the same time.)

If you have other financial aid or scholarships that don't require repayment (ex. Pell Grant), this will be applied prior to billing T.E.A.C.H. **If you receive a refund, you should contact your school and verify with them that they have used your other financial aid first before billing us.**

If you haven't already, please submit your FAFSA confirmation for the 2024-2025 school year. You will not be able to charge anything to your T.E.A.C.H. account for Fall 2024 until I receive this. If you have any questions, please let me know.

If you have questions about how to complete the FAFSA, contact EducationQuest at <http://www.educationquest.org/> or 1-800-303-3745.



Online Payment Portal Reminder

We hope you have explored our new online payment portal! You can find it on our website, www.nebraskaaeyc.org. At the top of the home page, scroll to the right to find, "Payments". There are two options: "Donate" and "Online Payment Portal". To pay your invoice, click on "Online Payment Portal" and use the links to enter our online payment portal. Please type your Invoice # under "Additional Information" section. If you do not have this, enter "0000". ACH Payments can be made free of charge from your bank account. A 3% convenience fee is applied if paying with a credit/debit card.

As you know, we began our new payment policy on January 1st, 2024. Payments towards invoices must be made before the start of the next term. We will no longer be able to let charges incur for the next term without a zero balance or a payment towards an outstanding balance. This means charge approvals for an upcoming term will not be sent if you owe money and have not made a payment. The goal is for you to have a zero balance at the start of every term.

Thank you!





Nebraska Association for the
Education of Young Children

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20 Questions

This month's section of "20 Questions" features Wryleigh from Douglas County. She is currently a preschool teacher at a child care program in Omaha. She began on T.E.A.C.H. with a Bachelor Degree Gap Scholarship in the Fall 2021 term and is now on the Bachelor Degree Scholarship model.

1. **Where were you born?** Lincoln, NE
2. **If you could meet someone famous, past or present, who would it be?** Amelia Earhart
3. **What is your favorite book?** Matched series
4. **What is one of your biggest pet peeves?** Talking with mouth full/ smacking
5. **What's one place you really want to travel to?** Greece
6. **What are your favorite TV shows?** The Originals, Criminal Minds, Law & Order
7. **What's your least favorite subject in school?** Science
8. **Do you have any brothers or sisters?** 8! 4 step, but they're all my siblings
9. **What is your favorite season?** Fall
10. **Do you have a favorite holiday?** 4th of July—Love fireworks
11. **What's your favorite food?** Pasta & breadsticks / garlic bread
12. **What do you like to do in your free time?** Draw, class prep, take pictures
13. **What's one thing you can't live without?** Water & drinks
14. **Would you rather live in a place that was always hot or a place that was always cold?** Hot
15. **What is something you wish you could do?** White water rafting
16. **If I weren't a teacher, I'd be...** An FBI investigator / detective
17. **What is your favorite movie?** Monsters, Inc.
18. **What is your favorite color?** Blue
19. **Do you prefer writing in pen or pencil?** Pen... I love my pens!
20. **What's your favorite subject in school?** Art & History / English

