



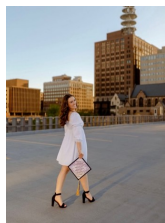
NEBRASKA

A Program of Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children

January 16th, 2025  
Volume 10, Issue 2

# TEACH Early Childhood® Nebraska Newsletter

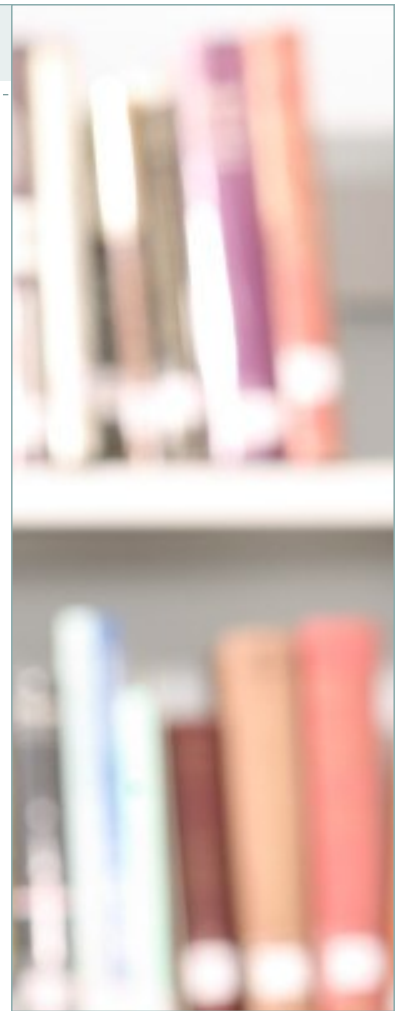
## Student Spotlight



Erin Pietryga graduated at the end of the spring 2024 term with her Bachelor Degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She was first awarded a Bachelor Degree Gap scholarship in the fall 2021 term. She then transitioned into a Bachelor Degree scholarship in the fall 2022 term. Erin completed 88.5 credits and completed her coursework while working full time as an assistant teacher for an early head start program in Omaha. Erin says, “I graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. I got my associates degree from Iowa Western Community College and graduated in 2019. I then heard about Educare of Omaha in 2019 after graduating from Iowa Western Community College and started working there. I liked working at Educare of Omaha and while I was working there, I heard about the TEACH program. I wanted to go back to school but knew it cost too much and I wasn’t sure if it would be too hard for me due to my dyslexia learning disability. However, I decided to pursue my bachelor degree with the help of the TEACH program. The TEACH program gave me a great opportunity to help me finish my dreams of getting my bachelor degree and it helped push my confidence even more. I felt a calling from God to go after my dreams and follow my path. I started the TEACH program in 2021 while working full time at Educare of Omaha, my sponsoring program. TEACH helped make things easier for me by having time to go to school, while working full time, and also by helping pay for the cost of school. I never gave up with school and I knew that this was the plan God wanted me to go for. I graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in spring 2024 with a degree in early childhood inclusive. TEACH helped me to follow my dreams and to become the lead teacher at Educare of Omaha in spring of 2024. I have been working at Educare of Omaha for five years. I couldn’t have done it without the TEACH program. Also, some days were challenging and some days were easier, but TEACH helped me grow more into a stronger woman and it gave me the opportunity to help kids grow and learn more every day. I love kids and I’m happy I got my bachelor degree. I’m glad that I joined the TEACH program and I feel that it was definitely a calling from God that I needed to go after. I encourage others to go follow your dreams, and don’t give up. Anything is possible if you believe in yourself!”



Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children



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## “ONE CLASS AT A TIME” SURVEY COMMENTS



Thank you for completing our annual TEACH survey. We noticed numerous comments about only being able to take one class. As a reminder, in September, we made you aware that our budget is very tight this year. Because of this, we weren't sure if we would be able to pay for you to take more than one class after the current fall term *until the summer*. After receiving our invoices for the fall term, we re-evaluated our budget to determine we could pay for at least six credits this spring.

Our funding renews every June 1st. The limit on credits this spring **WAS TEMPORARY**. It was not intended to be permanent. We should be able to resume business as usual with the summer term as stated in the original email.

Again, if you have any questions about this, please let us know.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

This fall, we had three graduates! While on TEACH...

***Michaela** from Omaha graduated with her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Since Fall 2022, Michaela completed three contracts and 97.5 credits.*

***Martha** from Duncan graduated with her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Since Fall 2020, Martha completed four contracts and 82 credits.*

***Abby** from Avoca graduated from Peru State College with her Inclusive Endorsement in Early Childhood Education. Since Summer 2023, Abby completed two contracts and 30 credits.*

We are proud of you!



## 20 QUESTIONS

This month's section of "20 Questions" features Katina from Douglas County. She is currently a teacher at a child care program in Bennington. She is one of our brand new Associate Degree Apprenticeship Scholarship recipients!

1. Where were you born? **North Platte, NE**
2. What is something you are proud of? **My two beautiful children**
3. If you could meet someone famous, past or present, who would it be? **Marilyn Monroe**
4. If you could have one superpower, what would it be? **Reading minds**
5. What is one of your biggest pet peeves? **People touching my head or face**
6. What's one place you really want to travel to? **Italy and Spain**
7. What is something you are afraid of? **Snakes! I think they can be pretty, but I scream like a kid if I see one.**
8. What are your favorite TV shows? **The Traitors and British baking shows**
9. What is your least favorite subject in school? **Spelling. I'm a terrible speller!**
10. Do you have any brothers or sisters? **I am the oldest. I have two sisters and one brother.**
11. What is your favorite season? **Summer**
12. Do you have a favorite holiday? **4th of July. It's hot, I can be by a body of water, and family & friends hang out without the stress of Thanksgiving or Christmas.**
13. What's your favorite food? **Italian**
14. What do you like to do in your free time? **I read, workout, and go on family outings.**
15. Would you rather live in a place that was always hot or a place that was always cold? **HOT**
16. If you had to describe yourself in three words, what would they be? **Positive, hard working, and empathetic**
17. What is your favorite movie? **Burlesque**
18. If I weren't a teacher, I'd be... **A pastry chef**
19. What's your favorite subject in school? **Science and math**
20. What is your favorite color? **Dark green or bright pink**





## NEW NAME AND LOGO

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® will now be TEACH Early Childhood®. (We will no longer have periods in between each letter.) The National Center, located in North Carolina, launched a new brand and will no longer be known as “Child Care Services Association”, but “Early Years”. With the new name, comes a new logo. You may still see our old name and logo on a few things, but please know that we are taking the time to update all of our materials.



Find and follow us on  
Instagram and Facebook!



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**JANUARY 20TH:** MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY –OFFICE CLOSED

**JANUARY 27TH:** STAFF APPRECIATION DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

**FEBRUARY 1ST:** EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE @ CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN GRAND ISLAND—JULIE WILL BE THERE!

**FEBRUARY 17TH:** PRESIDENT’S DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

**FEBRUARY 20TH—21ST:** JULIE OUT OF THE OFFICE

**FEBRUARY 26TH:** LAST DAY OF WINTER TERM @ MCC

**FEBRUARY 26TH:** T.E.A.C.H. & WAGE\$ ADVISORY TEAM MEETING

**MARCH 1ST:** COLUMBUS EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

**MARCH 7TH:** FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM @ MCC

**MARCH 19TH:** JULIE OUT OF THE OFFICE

**MARCH 22ND:** LINCOLN EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE—JULIE WILL BE THERE!

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