T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® COLORADO

FY18 Results

Before first grade, a child may spend over 10,000 hours in child care. Research tells us that children enrolled in a good early care and education program in the first five years of life are most likely to be in a highly skilled job or in college at age 21. Ensuring quality early care and education for children today ensures a viable workforce for the future and a strong American economy in the long run.

The quality of early care and education a child receives is directly linked to the education and compensation of early educators. In Colorado, many early educators do not have higher education degrees and many earn less than $12 an hour. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program awards educational scholarships to early education professionals in an effort to address the key issues of under-education, poor compensation and high turnover within the early education workforce. All T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships link increasing educational levels with increased compensation and retention. Scholarship recipients and their sponsoring early care and education programs share in the cost.

In Colorado, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is administered by Qualistar Colorado. In FY18, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Colorado helped over 78 early education professionals in the state increase their education.

Education

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of 13.8 credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of 17.4 credit hours.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients in Colorado completed over 694 credit hours last year.
- The average grade point average for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient working on her associate degree was 3.36; the average GPA for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient working on her bachelor's degree was 3.51.

Compensation

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was $13.38.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on an associate degree scholarship was 5%.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was 4%.

Retention

- For associate degree scholarship recipients the retention rate was 100%.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients the retention rate was 100%.

Demographics

- 76% of recipients worked with 3-5 year old children.
- 41% of recipients worked with children under 3.
- 38% of recipients were women of color and/or Hispanic origin.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients attended one of the 14 different community colleges or 9 universities offering early childhood degree programs in Colorado.

Personal Impact

- In a survey of T.E.A.C.H. recipients, 100% indicated they would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to their peers; and 100% of their employers would recommend T.E.A.C.H.

T.E.A.C.H. recipients show dramatic dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates that are far less than national turnover rates of 30-40%. This year alone 4,954 of Colorado's children benefitted from consistent early education and care provided by better prepared early childhood educators.

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project continues to be heralded by experts in the field as a national leader in creating solutions for early childhood education workforce challenges. National outcomes can be found in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGE$® 2017-2018 Annual Program Report: http://teachecnationalcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/T.E.A.C.H.-National-Center-Annual-Report-FY18.pdf

Produced in conjunction with the
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NATIONAL CENTER

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® COLORADO

FY18 Voices from the Field

"The T.E.A.C.H Scholarship has done so much for me, opening my mind to new things and wonders. I am able to go to school and to gain the knowledge I need to become a better teacher, not just for myself but for the children that are in my care. I am able to share the knowledge that I have learned with others, and watch them grow and keep passing it on – it's a never-ending story. The scholarship lets me explore and build relationships with others in the field. My next educational goal will be completing my Associates Degree in Early Childhood and the T.E.A.C.H Scholarship makes it possible. I will be the first in my family to have a degree, as I am the first in my family to attend college. When my mom looks at me she tells me she is very proud of me for reaching my goals no matter what. The T.E.A.C.H Scholarship is like having a second chance to succeed and achieve your dreams and goals. Being a single mother of four, the scholarship gives me the opportunity to make a better life for me and my family." –Catherine Scott, T.E.A.C.H. Scholar

"In 2012, our school district got hit with big budget cuts, causing a lot of positions to be cut, including mine. I decided then, it was time for me to get my degree. I was able to qualify for some financial aid and grant money through the unemployment. Then, I got hired and no longer qualified for assistance. That is when I heard about the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship. I only needed two more classes to complete my Associates Degree in ECE. Even though it was just a couple of classes, it was well out of my budget. I have been very blessed for one, having one of the most amazing contacts at Qualistar! When you have someone who sincerely cares about getting you assistance, or making sure that you are aware of what is offered, being personable, making sure things are very clear, and never leaves you hanging, I would say one couldn't ask for a better experience than that. Shannon Hall is amazing! She has made my experience with the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship amazing. My job requires that we continue our education, having at least our BA in ECE now. Without the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship, there is NO WAY I would be able to continue my education. I do not qualify for any assistance of any sort, and I cannot afford to take out any more student loans. If it weren't for the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship, and leadership I have gotten from Shannon Hall, I would not be getting my bachelor's degree starting this fall. The T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship has truly been a blessing in my life, and I am thankful every day that I have it and am able to continue my education." –Hilary Lancaster, T.E.A.C.H. Scholar

"Now that I have completed the scholarship and coursework necessary to take the next step, I have been reflecting upon the journey. Three years ago, I would have said the field of ECE is very limited and as a seasoned teacher I was ready to jump ship – completely leave the industry. I struggled long and hard with this as many years prior I felt it was my place and had such passion for it. Getting the scholarship changed my life, reignited my passion and connected me to the right network of equally passionate people. I've always held a high standard for myself and anything my name is attached to, to me personally, it's a contract of honesty and desire to leave the world in a better place than where I found it. It's with heartfelt appreciation I was fortunate enough to be a recipient of this amazing opportunity. Thank you for helping me reignite my passion for the field and work I *love* to do. Serving children and families is a rewarding job and when you add in the element of community it brings a proud smile when people ask what's your profession… what do you do?" – Jennifer Martin, T.E.A.C.H. Scholar

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