The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® COLORADO Scholarship Program is a national, evidence-based strategy that creates access to higher education for teachers, directors, and family child care providers through comprehensive scholarships that enable early educators to take coursework leading to credentials and degrees. Early childhood professionals who have a higher education have been shown to have a better understanding of child development and to be more responsive to the educational and academic needs of young children. Since 1998, the program has served 2,438 scholarship recipients.

Across the state, there are only enough licensed child care services for 45 percent of the 256,000 kids birth to age six with working parents. There is a substantial increase in the need for early childhood teachers and leaders – between 33-43% (depending on job category) through 2025. T.E.A.C.H. is a strategy that helps to support increased capacity and quality for young children while increasing education and wages for professionals.

The program offers scholarships to eligible professionals to obtain their early childhood credential, associate, or bachelor’s degree. The benefits include 90% of tuition, fees, and textbooks; travel stipend; bonus upon successful completion of coursework; paid release time to attend classes; and an additional bonus or raise after completion of the work commitment.

Scholarships were awarded to recipients in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Fremont, Garfield, Gunnison, Larimer, Morgan, Pitkin, Pueblo, San Miguel, and Weld counties.
2021 IMPACT

60 Recipients
$138,442 in scholarship funds provided
504 Credit Hours 3.7 Average GPA
3,540 Children Impacted

SCHOLAR DEMOGRAPHICS

POSITION
Teacher
56
Director
10
Administrator
1
Family Based Professional
1

DIVERSITY
52% of scholars identified as people of color and Latinx origin.
5% of scholars identified as male.
38% of scholars worked with children under 3 years old.

REACH
of scholars worked with children under 3 years old.

CREDENTIAL/DEGREE PROGRAM
Director Qualification
11
Early Childhood Credential
17
Associate Degree
24
Bachelor Degree
10

WAGE AND RETENTION IMPACT
$15.66 the average wage at the start of the program
11% the average wage increase upon program completion
93% of scholars are retained by their early childhood employer throughout the required work commitment (removing turnover due to COVID-19). Only two recipients quit their jobs due to the pandemic.
100% of scholars and sponsors recommend the program.
There are many benefits for students that receive college scholarships:

- Lessen the impact of increasing tuition and fee costs
- Allow students more time to focus on their studies
- Decreases the number and impact of student loans

However, for CCA students receiving the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship, there are two main benefits; one, this grant offers the college opportunities to recruit students into the field of education thus diversifying the teacher pipeline and two, the students who receive this scholarship are given the opportunity to enter and remain in the field with little or no out of pocket cost thus decreasing the workforce gap and employee retention rates.

What does this really mean? Our students come to us from all walks of life and because of their individual drives and dedication to the education of ALL children, we want to make sure that any barriers that prevent them from being the best teacher, childcare provider, or childcare advocate are removed…we remove these barriers by promoting the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship within the college and community. This scholarship allows us to recruit, retain, and train the best students who one day will become the best educators in any area of education.

Dr. Ashley Simpson, Community College of Aurora and T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood® COLORADO Scholarship Program Advisory Committee

"Working in the ECE field was never part of my plan. I have a B.A. in Psychology and I was going to get my M.A in Counseling. The opportunity for a job as a lead teacher at my center kind of fell into my lap; and I fell in love. After two years, I finally began taking classes to obtain an M.A. I completed five courses and realized as much as I wanted to become a counselor; I had no interest in leaving my school. My director discussed the option of taking courses to become a director myself, as there would be a position potentially opening up in the future. I made the decision to stop pursuing my M.A. to go on this new path. It was a difficult choice because I had to take out loans to pay for the portion I already completed.

I applied for the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship, hopeful that I would receive some help to pay for my change in plans. Between needing to buy a new car, moving, and COVID-19, money was tight. Despite this, I was able to start and finish all nine of the courses needed in one year. As a result of taking these courses, I was promoted to administrative assistant. Now that I have finished everything, I am waiting to receive my Director Certificate, and once that arrives, I will be officially promoted to the Director of my center. The money from the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship helped me to achieve my goals in a way that I would not have been able to without it."

Krysta Derengowski, T.E.A.C.H. Recipient
**FUNDERS, PARTNERS, ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD® COLORADO**

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- Buell Foundation
- Daniels Fund
- Denver Preschool Program

**UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERS**

**2-Year Programs**
- Aims Community College
- Arapahoe Community College
- Community College of Aurora
- Community College of Denver
- Colorado Mountain College
- Colorado Northwestern Community College
- Front Range Community College
- Lamar Community College
- Morgan Community College
- Northwestern Junior College
- Pikes Peak Community College
- Pueblo Community College
- Red Rocks Community College
- Trinidad State Colorado
- Western Colorado Community College

**4-Year Programs**
- Colorado Christian University
- Colorado Mesa University
- Colorado State University
- Ft. Lewis College
- Metropolitan State University
- University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
- University of Northern Colorado
- University of Colorado, Denver

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