
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Statewide Management Office

Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

P.O. Box 9500

3500 John A. Merritt Blvd.

Nashville, TN 37209

ANNUAL REPORT

CONTRACT YEAR 2016 - 2017

Excellence

is our Habit!



TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

TSU-18-0077(B)-10c-61085 - Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by Tennessee State University. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Rita Williams Seay, Office of Equity and Inclusion, rseay@tnstate.edu, 3500 John Merritt Blvd., McWherter Administration Building, Suite 260, Nashville, TN 37209, 615-963-7438. The Tennessee State University policy on nondiscrimination can be found at www.tnstate.edu/nondiscrimination.

From the TECTA Statewide Program Director

The statewide TECTA program maintains a strong commitment to the delivery of quality professional development that provides a solid foundation for working with young children. TECTA had a successful 2016-2017 year assisting students in achieving their training and education goals towards attainment of state required training, Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential, Technical Certificate, Associate, or additional degrees as funding was available. The TECTA statewide management team as well as the staff located in eight (8) sites statewide actively participated as leaders in the early childhood field and in local community efforts to improve the quality of child care across the state.

The Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS) continues to provide online training opportunities for entry level as well as ongoing training opportunities 24/7. The FREE 30 clock –hour TECTA Orientation is designed to provide a stimulus to motivate individuals to seek further professional development and higher education. Orientation classes, specialized in specific early care and education content areas provide an introduction to core knowledge and current research in the field. TECTA is proud of its training and formal education career pathway concept as a means to ensure those working with Tennessee’s young children receive education preparation and tuition assistance toward earning Early Childhood Education degrees.

As advocates for the future success of our supported students, TECTA staff play a significant role in facilitating assistance with registration and enrollment to assure accessibility toward a successful transition to college. TECTA site staff provide early childhood care and education course advisement and appropriate guidance with a focus on enabling students to prepare for attaining the CDA® National credential that place students on a trajectory for attaining additional academic success. Upon completion of the first four academic courses, students receive technical assistance through coaching support to apply for the CDA® credential. For directors in the field, the Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential process provides specific education preparation and evidence based that TECTA is contributing to the enhancement of child care quality across the state as measured by the Program Administration Scale and Business Administration Scale.

The technical assistance afforded in the multiple aspects of professional development that include reflection and feedback loops beginning in TECTA Orientation classes creates significant benchmarks of student recognition of professional success. TECTA strives to maintain attention to research based best practices and remain current in widely accepted advances in the field thereby helping students to advance their skills that can lead to improved practices and experiences with young children.

Lin Venable

TECTA Statewide Interim Program Director

Acknowledgements

Authors and Contributors

Cathy Allan
Celeste Brown
Lin Venable
Valerie Williams

Local TECTA Site Coordinators

Noelle Cannon - Austin Peay State University
Brenda Langston - Chattanooga State Community College
Kelly Tivey - Dyersburg State Community College
Sara Mietzner - East Tennessee State University
Emily Belitz - Roane State Community College
Elizabeth Wilson - Southwest Tennessee Community College
Stacey Nieman - Tennessee State University
Darcey Neyman - Tennessee Tech University

Funding Support for the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance

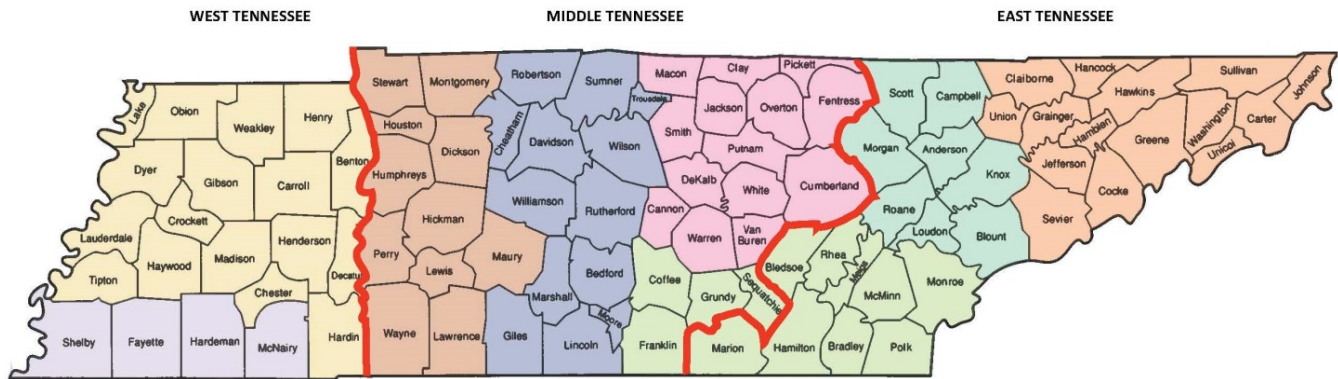


The TECTA program is funded through a contract with the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University.

For more information regarding the contents of this report contact:

Lin Venable
Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance
Work: 615-277-1657
Email: lvenable@tnstate.edu

Table of Contents



TENNESSEE'S THREE GRAND DIVISIONS AND TECTA SERVICE AREAS

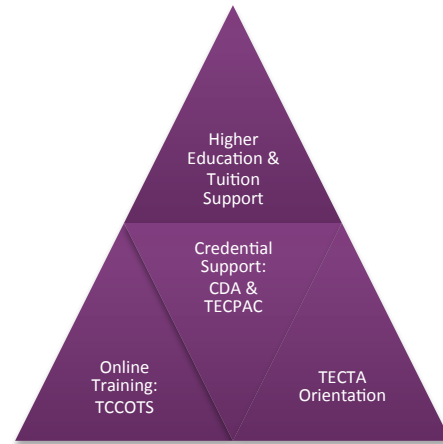
- 5 TECTA's 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget Allocations
- 6 TECTA Orientation Enrollment and Completions
- 11 Child Development Associate Credential Preparation and Assistance
- 13 Financial Support for Early Childhood Education Coursework Across the State
- 15 Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)
- 16 Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS)
- 17 Collaboration with Partner Agencies and Professional Organizations
- 18 TECTA Higher Education Institute
- 18 TECTA Annual Steering Committee and State Partners Meeting
- 19 Ninth Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute
- 20 TECTA Success Stories

TECTA's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Allocations

Tennessee State University was awarded \$2,824,400 by the Tennessee Department of Human Services to support a statewide early childhood training and professional recognition system to include a network of eight (8) TECTA offices statewide. Contracted scope of services included providing TECTA Orientation classes, tuition towards earning the National Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential, technical certificate, or a degree in Early Childhood Education during the 2017 fiscal year, as well as supporting students through the CDA credentialing process. In addition, the Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC) process, which includes tuition, technical assistance and instruction in the form of an Administrator Academy as well as the Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS) that provides online training to meet child care training requirements are managed by TECTA under the same contract. TECTA utilizes the core professional knowledge and competencies based upon National Association for the Education of Young Children Standards and Guidelines for Professional Development and the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) quality initiatives in all aspects of the statewide professional development system.

TECTA's career lattice pathway for ongoing

Total FY 2017 Funding: \$2,824,400



professional development beginning with TCCOTS specifically designed online training Pre-service and Developmental Learning, through structured TECTA Orientation training classes and on to provide access to higher education ensures effective investment of funding to support the early care and education workforce. TECTA also provides assistance to the early childhood education higher education community with an annual Higher Ed Institute and supports to other early childhood professional organizations.

Data is reported statewide and by respective regions under its scope. TECTA sites provide services to all 95 counties through access to the TECTA sites listed below:

Region	TECTA Site
West	Dyersburg State Community College
	Southwest Tennessee Community College
Middle	Austin Peay State University
	Chattanooga State Community College (4 counties only)
	Tennessee State University
	Tennessee Tech University
East	Chattanooga State Community College
	East Tennessee State University
	Roane State Community College

TECTA Orientation Enrollment and Completions

Fiscal Year 2017

TECTA Orientation is 30 hours of free Early Childhood training centered on the professional core competencies that are based on research and best practices and relevant to the child care programs in Tennessee as well as the National Association for the Education of Young Children's guidelines to early childhood professional preparation.

The TECTA Orientation curriculum is delivered in a series of 10 three hour modules which are offered in five specializations: Infant/Toddler, Center-based, Family Child Care, School-age, and Child Care Administrator. Course content modules include Professionalism, Developmentally Appropriate Practice, Family Relationships, Child Development, Observation and Assessment, Learning Environment, Health and Safety, Guidance, and Individual and Cultural Diversity. The curriculum is intended

to be delivered by TECTA trainers with a background in child care and early education to provide the training through active hands on instruction activities designed to include opportunities for relationship building between participants as well as participants and instructors. Instructors are encouraged to share their ideas and strategies for working with young children as well as invite the participants to share their own ideas and materials.

Additional resources in each module related to the topic are displayed at each session to provide an opportunity for participants to explore and borough. Journal Writing is encouraged at each session to allow for reflection upon the participants' understanding of the module topic and elicit confidential feedback from the instructor. The participants receive their personal journals at the following

Region	Orientation Type	Number of Orientation Classes	Number of Students Completed	Number of Student Make-ups
East	Infant/Toddler	7	117	32
	Center-Based	7	114	39
	School Age	4	65	13
	Family Child Care	2	14	2
	Administrator	4	54	21
Middle	Infant/Toddler	8	175	50
	Center-Based	9	162	28
	School Age	2	19	16
	Family Child Care	2	17	2
	Administrator	7	86	25
West	Infant/Toddler	6	92	26
	Center-Based	6	102	18
	School Age	2	15	7
	Family Child Care	1	11	2
	Administrator	3	42	13
Total		33	70	1085

TECTA Orientation Enrollment and Completions, cont. Fiscal Year 2017

session and can use feedback to clarify and expand concepts or receive confirmation of understanding of course content. Instructors use the journals to monitor participant understanding and clarify meanings as needed for the group. Prior to all TECTA Orientation Training offerings this program year, all classes and modules were edited to include the new CCDF Health and Safety Standards and Training Requirements based upon age and topic specialization.

TECTA Orientation training is designed as a gateway that prepares participants for academic professional development and tuition support. TECTA Orientations are offered in five specializations:

- Administrator – offered in a Hybrid format
- Center Based – offered in Face-to-Face option only with make-up packets designed to be completed online
- Family Child Care – offered in both Face-to-Face or online option
- Infant Toddler – offered in Face-to-Face option only
- School Age – offered primarily via online format

The FY 2017 contract included the requirement of increasing the number of TECTA Orientation offerings statewide by fifteen percent for this program year. The TECTA sites collectively held 70 Orientation classes successfully during

the fiscal year. This represents a 20% increase from the previous year.

Over the course of academic semesters, Summer 2016, Fall 2016, and Spring 2017, a total of 1,778 individuals were enrolled in TECTA Orientations Statewide with 286 that did not report for class. A typical TECTA supported student is an adult aged 25-64 years of age, who works full-time in a child care setting, and began his/her journey with a high school diploma or its equivalent.

A grand total of 1,378 individuals completed Orientation, including make-up classes from previously missed class meetings, with an additional 103 students who remain eligible to make-up missed modules to complete classes within 18 months.

High School Equivalency Certificates

TECTA management works in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education Division of Career and Technical Education in high schools statewide and the State to oversee the process for secondary students successfully completing the Early Childhood Careers I and II courses in obtaining a TECTA Center-based Orientation Equivalency Certificate.

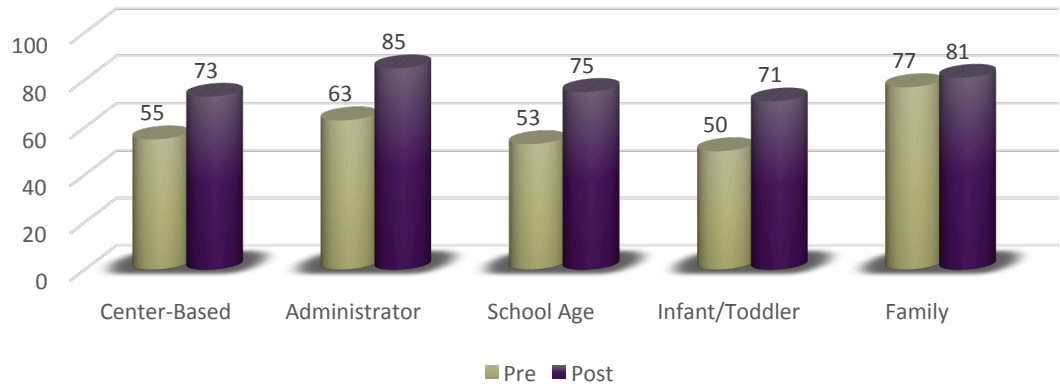
During the program year a total of 121 certificates were awarded. This enables high school students to obtain tuition support in attaining early childhood classes who are unable to meet, Hope Scholarship, Tennessee Promise or other eligibility requirements.

Correct Student Responses in Pre and Post Assessments Fiscal Year 2017

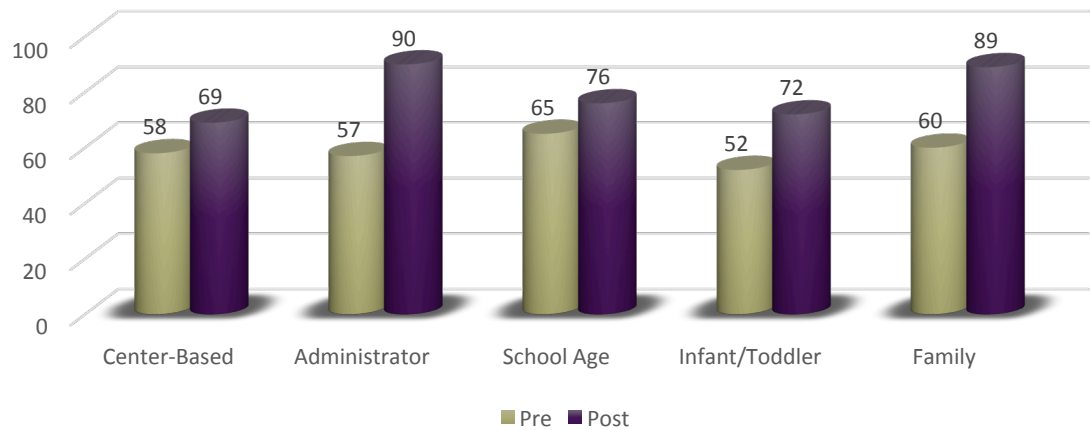
Orientation Evaluations have continued to show high levels of satisfaction when student are surveyed after completing the modules. When compared with last year's summaries the

results are almost identical. Evaluations for this fiscal year were revised to increase accuracy and clarifications required based upon CCDF changes.

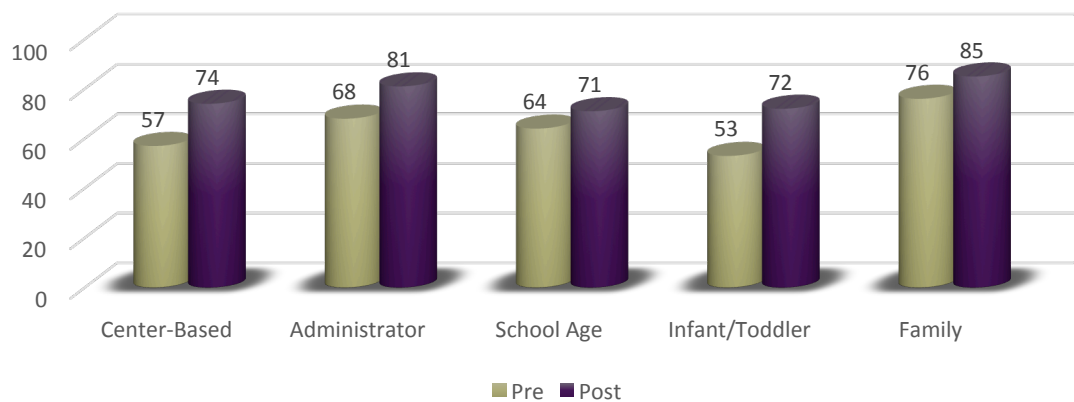
Middle



West



East



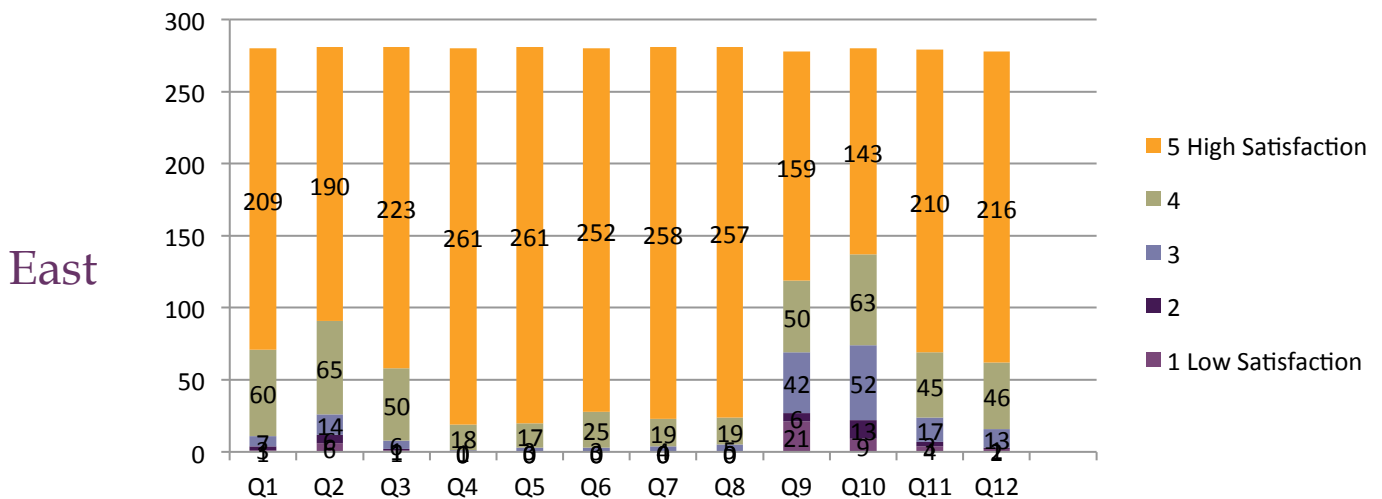
Student Orientation Evaluations Fiscal Year 2017

Orientation Evaluations have continued to show high levels of satisfaction when student are surveyed after completing the modules. When compared with last year’s summaries the results are almost identical. Evaluations for this fiscal year were revised to increase accuracy and clarifications required based upon CCDF changes. Overall, all questions showed a large majority of students are highly satisfied with the orientation modules.

Orientation Evaluation Tally Questions

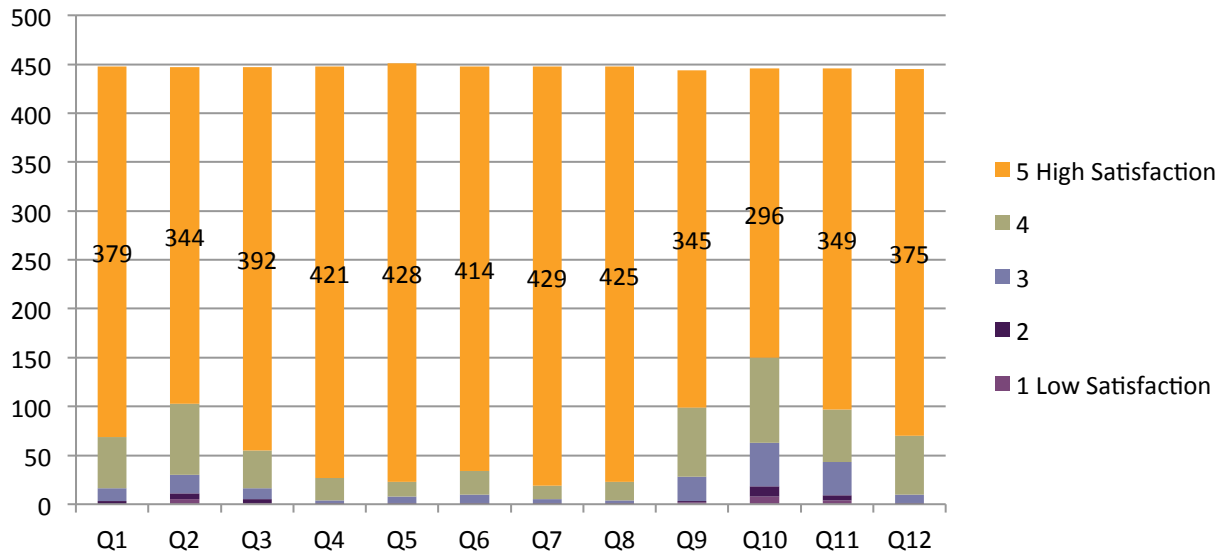
1. This orientation has been valuable to me educationally and professionally.
2. My experience in this orientation has helped me define or strengthen my professional and educational goals.
3. Based on my overall experience in this orientation, I would recommend it to my co-workers.
4. The instructor was on time and well prepared for class each day.
5. The instructor was friendly, easy to approach, and responsive to my questions or concerns.
6. The instructor made information understandable and interesting.
7. The instructor listened well to all students and encouraged class participation.
8. The instructor had experience with the topics that were taught.
9. The use of instructional videos helped stimulate group discussion.
10. My journal writing helped me focus on and understand the key points of each module.
11. The instructor gave me meaningful and helpful feedback on my journal writing.
12. The group discussions gave me good ideas that I will or have already used in my classroom.

Orientation Evaluation Results Fiscal Year 2017

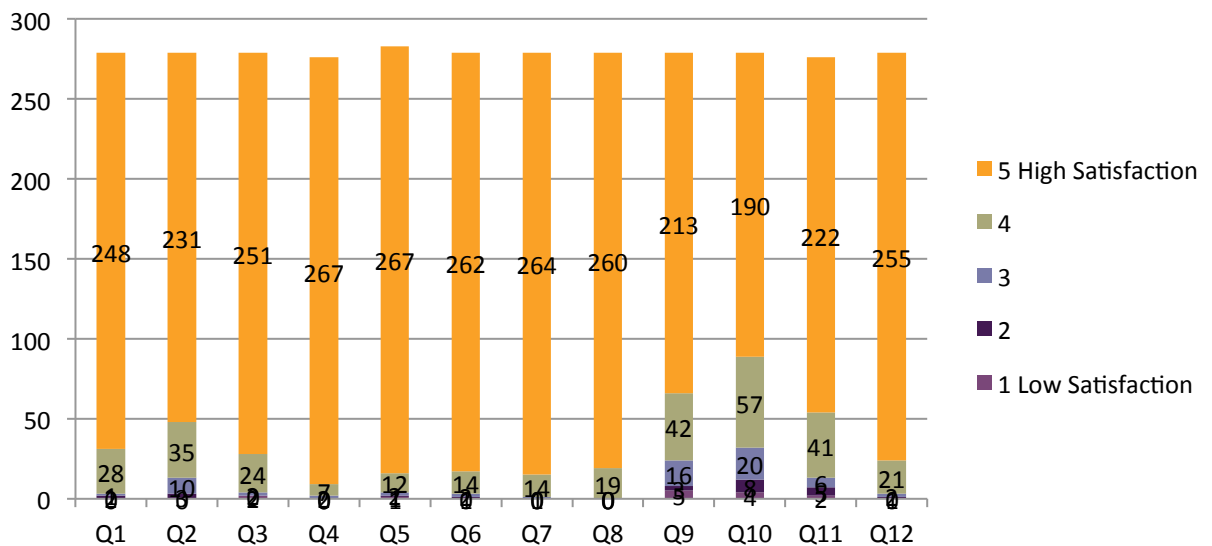


Orientation Evaluation Results, cont. Fiscal Year 2017

Middle



West



Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Preparation and Assistance

CDA Credential Status by Region Fiscal Year 2017

Region	CDA® Type	CDA® Awarded	Renewal
East	Infant Toddler	13	18
	Preschool	27	14
	Family	0	0
Middle	Infant Toddler	8	7
	Preschool	36	17
	Family	1	8
West	Infant Toddler	14	22
	Preschool	16	47
	Family	1	4
Border State	Infant Toddler	0	0
	Preschool	1	0
	Family	0	0
Total		117	137

TECTA sites provide technical assistance, mentoring, consultation and tuition scholarship assistance to CDA preparation participants. Scholarship funding is provided by remitting payment directly to the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington D.C. The Council administers the Child Development Associate (CDA)® National Credentialing Program. The CDA® program is designed to assess and credential early childhood education professionals.

The CDA Credential® core set of Competency Standards provides the foundation for all TECTA training and is aligned with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards for Professional Preparation Programs used in NAEYC Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation system (ECADA). The TECTA

formal education support pathway to earning the CDA® credential is through completion of TECTA orientation, preparation coursework and documentation through TECTA sub-contract institutions. TECTA provided advisement and financial support for 76 individuals to submit. In-Progress refers to individuals that have completed academic coursework meeting the formal early childhood education training requirement in each of the eight CDA® subject areas and the candidate is working on the Portfolio, writing Competency Statements, and receiving coaching support. Filed indicates that a student has applied and received a TECTA scholarship to cover the application fee and a verification visit is to be conducted and at this writing 85 individuals hold the status of in progress working toward completion in the next fiscal year.

Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Preparation and Assistance, cont.

TECTA staff hold the status of Professional Development Specialists with the Council for Over the entire program year TECTA staff provided CDA® technical assistance through coaching support and CDA Verification Visits®. TECTA staff hold the status of Professional Development Specialists® with the

Council for Professional Recognition to satisfy contract provisions between the Council and Tennessee State University. This status qualifies staff for delivering technical support based upon identified needs and student goals as well as conduct CDA Verification visits®.

Hours of CDA Mentoring Support and Verification Visits Fiscal Year 2017

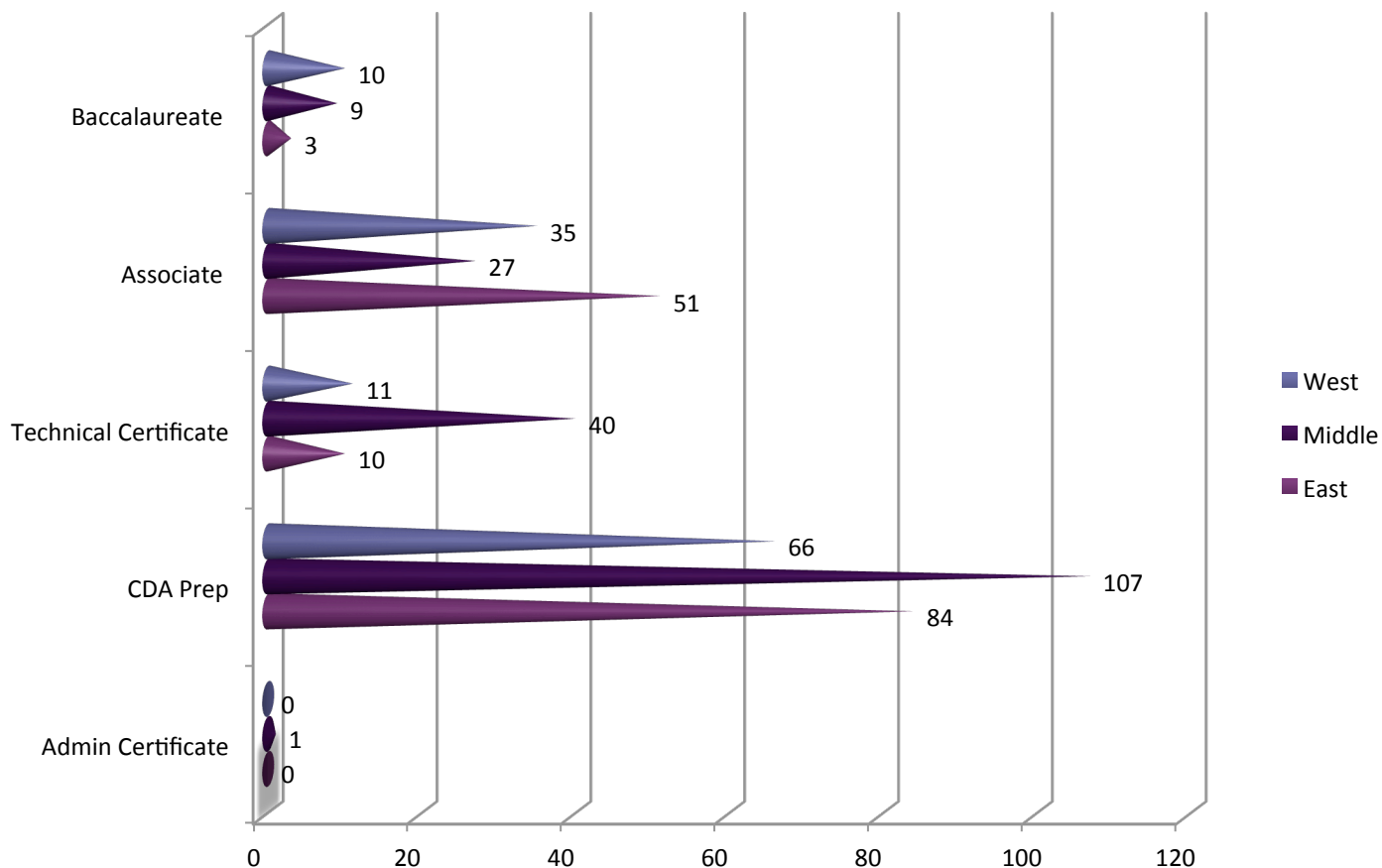
	East	Middle	West
Mentoring Support	158.5	463	398
Verification Visits	38	126.5	117.5

Financial Support for Early Childhood Education Coursework Across the State

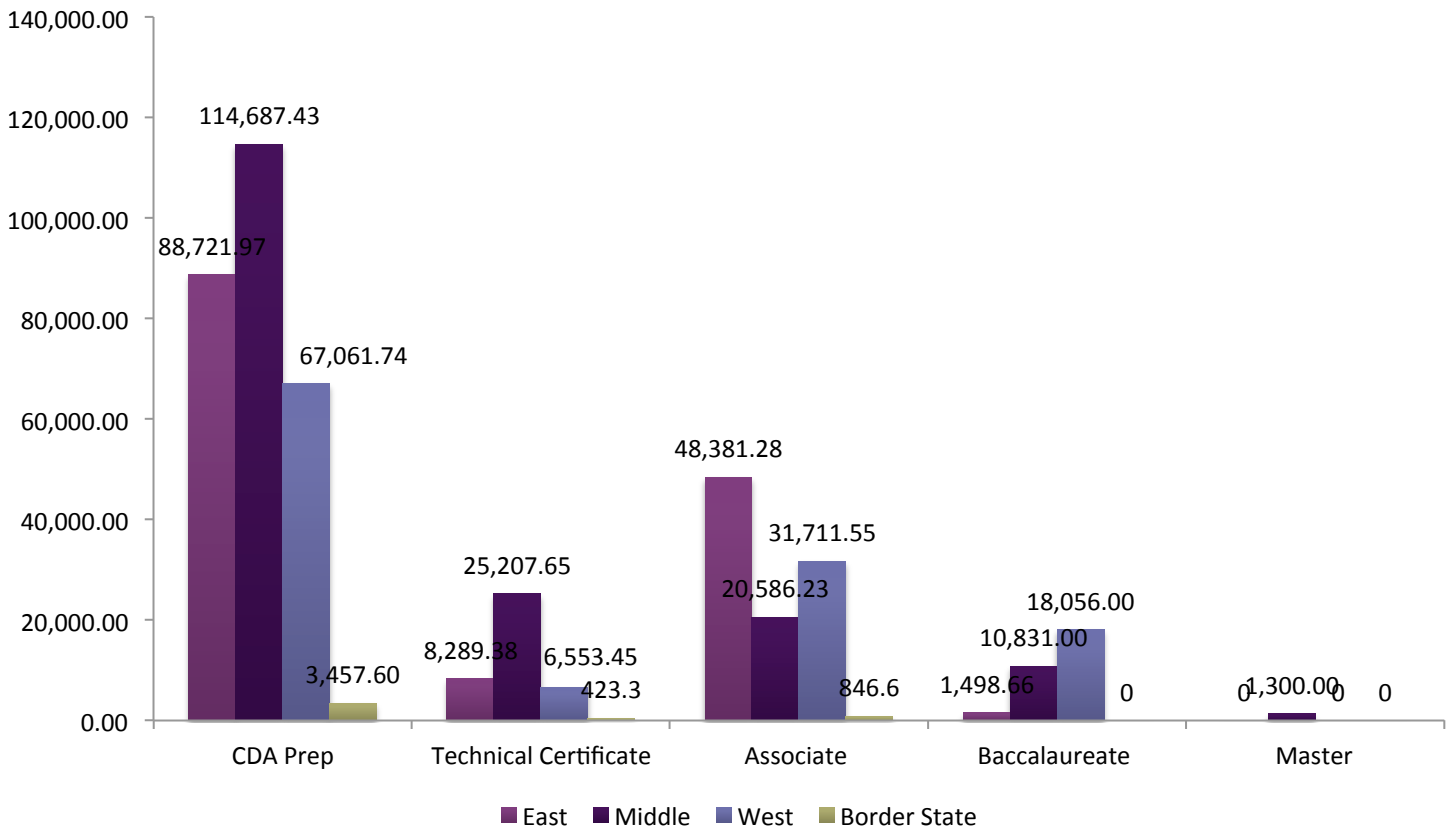
The TECTA program provides tuition assistance and support for students who attend courses accessed through the eight TECTA regional offices located in Tennessee Board of Regents institutions across the state. Courses are available on the various campus sites, on-line via Regents On-line Degree Program (RODP), or in local community sites that are accessible in each of the state’s ninety-five (95) counties.

During the 2016-2017 year, TECTA provided \$447,613.84 in scholarship dollars to eligible students statewide including students who work in Tennessee but live in bordering states. A total of 1,171 academic seats were supported which resulted in the support of 608 students. A total of 25 students were supported who had earned a TECTA Center-Based Orientation Equivalency Certificate. In addition, 89 students were supported though the ability of TECTA to loan textbooks only.

TECTA Students Receiving Academic Support by Education Level Fiscal Year 2017



Distribution of TECTA Tuition Support by Region Fiscal Year 2017



TECTA-Supported Graduates by Region Fiscal Year 2017

Graduation Degree or Certificate Earned	East	Middle	West	Border County
A.A. or A.S.	0	2	3	0
A.A.S.	10	6	2	0
B.S. or B.A	0	2	0	1
Technical Certificate	13	5	6	0

Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)

The Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC) is the recognition awarded to Early Childhood Administrators who have demonstrated the specific competencies for effective leadership and management through academics, experiences, and portfolio assessment which is administered by the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance, approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, granted by Tennessee State University's Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences, and funded through a contract with the Tennessee Department of Human Services and Tennessee State University, Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences. The TECPAC Administrator

Professional Portfolio submitted for credential award is the organized collection of Administrator Academy work specific competencies for effective leadership and management aligned with the National Association for the Education of Young Children Early Childhood Preparation Standards

During the 2017 fiscal year 3 directors entered the TECPAC Academy, however only one director successfully completed the academy process. A pre and post assessment was performed and the completing student increased her score substantially on post assessment. She was so encouraged by the TECPAC process that she wrote:

Overall I have been surprised at the amount of helpful knowledge I have gained while enrolled in the TECPAC program. I have shared with other directors in my community the amount of growth that I have been able to see in our program. I honestly feel like a much stronger administrator and a more confident leader. I look forward to continuing to grow and follow the success of our program for the next three years. I am excited to see just how far we will grow as a team and a program. Thank you to each of you for pouring your time into my program, sharing your knowledge and supporting me with enthusiastic encouragement when you spoke to me each time. You all have been such professional mentors, restoring my desire to reach farther and to advocate for our profession with an entirely new intensity.

Sincerely,

Amy Loyd

Director, Berry Patch Kids

Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS)

During the 2017 fiscal year there were 20,587 certificates of completion granted, which represents over a total of 60,000 training hours. In anticipation of the CCDBG requirements for training and an additional contract awarded prior to the end of the fiscal year, the new Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma - 2 HR Training was launched and 133 completers earned the completion certificate prior to year end.

TCCOTS Statewide Training Completions Fiscal Year 2017

Module Title	Completions
Administration for Child Care Centers - Intermediate- 2 HR Training	880
Before You Begin: New Caregivers- 3 HR Training	2446
Before You Begin: New School-Age Caregivers - 2 HR Training	2916
Brain Development Advanced- 2 HR Training	842
Brain Development Intermediate- 2 HR Training	713
Eat, Play, Rest- 3 HR Training	266
Family Child Care Contracts and Policies- 2 HR Training	639
Family Child Care Marketing- 2 HR Training	644
Family Child Care Record Keeping- 2 HR Training	1087
Gold Sneaker - 2 HR Training	973
Inclusion- 2 HR Training	894
Promoting Social and Emotional Development - 3 HR Training	1117
Revised TN-ELDS for Infants: Birth- 12 Months 3 HR	1075
Revised TN-ELDS for Toddlers: 13- 24 Months 3 HR	797
Revised TN-ELDS for Two Year-Olds: 25- 36 Months 3 HR	786
Revised TN-ELDS for Three Year Olds: 37-48 Months 3 HR	739
Revised TN-ELDS for Four Year-Olds: 3 HR	753
Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma - 2 HR Training	2066
TN-SADS- School-Age: 3 HR	826
Total	20,459

Collaboration with Partner Agencies and Professional Organizations

TECTA continues to partner with many organizations and provide more educational opportunities to child care providers across the state and/or facilitate greater understanding of the training and educational needs of children and providers.

Week of the Young Child (WOYC) Events

APSU - Day of Play Event - Assisted with learning zones which consisted of the following play stations: Creative, Adventure, Construction, Story, Make Believe, Physical, and Music. TECTA students (graduates as well as current NSCC students) were on site as volunteers and received hands on technical assistance from staff in working directly with children and families. 3 hours of the event were provided just for special needs children and families so they could enjoy the event in a low stimulus environment. The day included networking with Capstone Pediatrics, the Center for Child Development, and Tennessee Voices for Children, Head Start, Early Connections Network, CCR&R.

TSU - Working Together Wednesday Event - Was held on April 12 in the TSU Fieldhouse. In celebration of the theme Work Together, Build Together, Learn Together and in the spirit of TSU's cooperation and dedication, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences within the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences and the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance within the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences cosponsored and provided activities on TSU's campus in the field house. Students and faculty from all departments in the university were invited to develop activities and information to help their parents extend their learning through family activities. Over 200 children from the north Nashville community participated. TECTA helped to facilitate

activities with the children from local PreK Programs and Child Care facilities. Photographs were taken of the event and especially the children interacting in TECTA supported areas. Through several conversations with Pre-K teachers during the WOYC event we renewed contacts with former students and shared ideas for activities in classrooms.

The Day of Play's exhibits were interactive and allowed the children to be creative.



The COELS presented a pizza activity at the TSU WOYC event.



TECTA staff explored ramps and pathways with children at the TSU WOYC event.



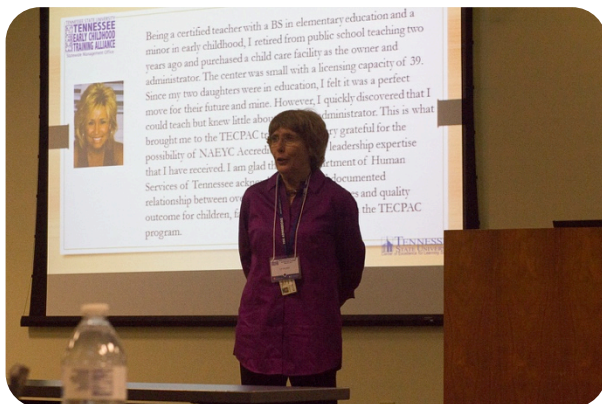
TECTA Higher Education Institute

TECTA's Annual Higher Education Institute for both Community College and University ECED faculty took place March 23 and 24, 2017. This event connects Early Childhood Education Faculty from both community colleges and universities, with early education and care programs and projects across the state. This year the Institute opened with NAEYC ECE Program Accreditation Webinar facilitated by TECTA and led by NAEYC representatives Megan Woolston and Pamela Ehrenberg. The revised handbook of policies and procedures related to the NAEYC Early Childhood Higher Education Accreditation process was presented and discussed related to teacher preparation at the associate and baccalaureate level. Concerns were raised regarding the unique features of the Key Assessments and the use of the courses in TN eCampus. TECTA Management provided resources to support ECED faculty and staff across the state in an effort to promote National Best Practices within ECED Academic Programs and Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation status for TBR Institutions. Jennifer Drake-Croft, Director of Early Childhood Well-Being, from Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth and Dr. Katari Coleman, Research Director, in the Tennessee State University Center



of Excellence for Learning Sciences provided information and conducted a session on the ACEs Initiative in Tennessee. Angela Webster, Executive Director, Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee (AIMHiTN) presented on the Infant Mental Health initiatives and the new Infant Mental Health Credential in development for the state. Time was provided for open discussion and group sharing. Those attending expressed interest in participating in GoToMeeting activities to remain in contact during the entire year. Two additional GoToMeeting sessions were held in April and June. It was agreed that these would continue into the new program year of TECTA to be held quarterly.

TECTA Annual Steering Committee and State Partners Meeting

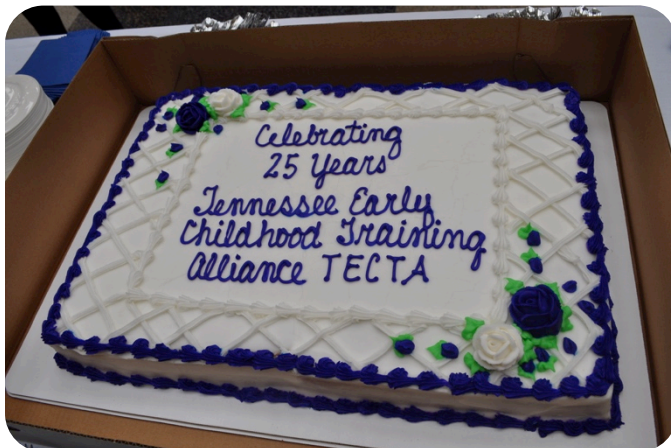


Lin Venable opened the Steering Committee meeting with an inspirational story.

The COELS Director planned and implemented an annual Steering Committee Meeting was held the morning of Thursday, March 23. Honored guests included DHS Commissioner Danielle Burns, Joyce Turner, Phil Acord, Belva Weathersby, Candace Cook, and others. The TECTA sites were represented by the TECTA Site Coordinators. Much information was shared.

Ninth Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute

The Ninth Annual TECTA Research Institute took place on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at Tennessee State University Avon Williams Campus. Held on TSU Avon Williams Campus. Total Number of Registrants: 207 Total Number of Attendees: 140. Of the 140 attendees, 59 were first-time attendees and 81 were return attendees. Of the 140 attendees, 133 completed an evaluation for a response rate of 95%. TECTA launched the 25th Year Anniversary Celebration of the development of the TECTA program. Additional celebrations are planned for Fall and Spring 2017 and 2018 when the first TECTA Orientation class was held. Overall, respondents reported having a positive experience. There were no strictly negative comments, only positive responses and good suggestions.



TECTA Success Stories

TECTA at ChSCC: Marier Flores



Right: TECTA Student
Marier Flores

“My name is Marier Flores. I am from Honduras. As a child, I suffered from multiple childhood traumas that included hunger, poverty and parental neglect. I grew up lacking confidence in myself. However, I had a great desire to

succeed in life and I knew the only way to have a better life was

through *education*.

I had a great passion for school even though no one in my family had a high school education. During those years it was required to leave the town to continue education and it was not easy due to my financial situation. Going to school was my dream. In 1978, I moved to the city to find a job and enrolled in a night school to continue my education. I worked 8 hours each day then would go to school at night. That was tough!

Many challenging years went by and I got my diploma from the Law School in 1993. In 1995 I moved to United States accompanied by my daughter who was 15 years old. A couple of years later I got married and had a daughter who was later diagnosed with William Syndrome which is a rare condition that causes cognitive disabilities. I had many challenges in front of me but the biggest one was the language barrier. Many years passed as well as my dream to go to school here in America. There were so many obstacles and I just could not afford it. In 2010 I went through a divorce and had no job. My future was uncertain. It would have been easy to give up.

In 2012, I began working with Head Start. The next

year I took a TECTA orientation. Because of my participation in the program I obtained information and the resources I needed to achieve my educational and professional goals. TECTA gave me financial and professional support. I am very grateful to TECTA for the support they gave me in accomplishing my dreams. When I look back I consider myself blessed beyond my words. I believe that my strong faith led me to overcome difficulties of being a *single mother, having a full time job and a child with special needs*.

Getting an education requires commitment and a lot of hard work but it is rewarding in so many ways. It is worth the time and effort to take advantage of the opportunity TECTA offers to pursue and achieve an education. I also believe that ANYONE who believes in herself can benefit from all the resources Tecta makes available to those of us working in the Early Childhood Education field.

Thank you Tecta!”

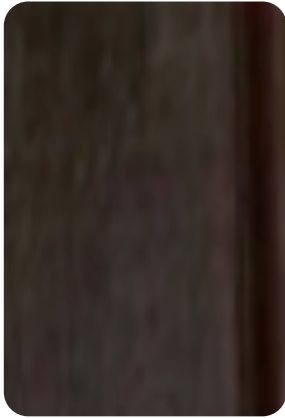
TECTA at STCC: Lequita Prefre



Lequita Prefre came by our office to say thanks for all the help and finish her graduation application. She finished her last 3 classes this week! Since her financial aid had been depleted with 7 classes remaining, TECTA was the only way she could financially finish her degree!

TECTA Success Stories, continued

TECTA at TTU: Tabitha Tramel



"I began my journey in childcare in 2003, at first because I didn't have a direction at the time and needed a job. I had babysat a lot when I was younger and truly loved being around children. It quickly became what I knew I wanted to do. I needed to work full time but also wanted to go to school so I began taking the CDA

classes. I was excited but nervous not sure still what my plan was. The center I was working at had to close down due to low numbers so I became a nanny for several years causing a delay in my completion of my CDA. I then started working at another center and took a TECTA class with Ms. Leslie Hamlett as my instructor. Leslie has a way with making everyone in class want to learn more she is always encouraging and helpful. She told me one time in my journal that she could tell I had great potential in this field. That stuck with me because I felt like someone believed in me and that maybe I was good at this whole childcare thing. I eventually began my journey back to get my CDA and the TECTA staff was huge in assisting with that they not only paid for the majority of the classes but they were there every step to help with anything I needed, to encourage and push me in the right direction even when I may have given up. They celebrated the completion with me and now are helping me go on to more classes to continue my education. I am now 3 years into being a director which was what I had prayed I would eventually get to be. I learned so much while taking the classes for my CDA, to name a few; how to interact, and build relationships with families, how to be professional with staff, families and the community. I have a passion for helping children become all that they can be and by taking my CDA I feel that I am better equipped to do so. I look forward to my next steps with TECTA to continue growing and learning all that I can."

TECTA at STCC: Porsha Dixon



Porsha struggled early in her college career. When it came time to graduate last year, her GPA from her early classes made her GPA under at 2.0. She has worked hard to retake those classes and take extra classes to bring her GPA up. As she said, she finally did it! She was no longer eligible for financial aid and could not have completed her

final classes to bring up her GPA and retake some old classes without TECTA's financial assistance.

TECTA at DSCC: Angela Jones

"I enrolled in Trevecca Nazarene University on May 29, 2014 to pursue my Master's Degree in Education K-6. On May 9, 2015, God blessed me once again to graduate with my Masters Degree in Education K-6. I am currently working on obtaining my licensure, but because of financial issues, I have to wait until funds become available to pay for the



required Praxis exams one at a time. I am a blessed and highly favored, dedicated, young woman with a purpose. God placed two special people in my life for a reason and because of the love and support of my TECTA family, Ms. Kelly Tivey and Ms. Donna Hunter, I have been truly blessed and achieved so many accomplishments. I couldn't accomplish all that I have without God's help and without the love and support of this great organization."