

# Congratulations to these T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® OHIO Graduates!!

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Ohio came to the state of Ohio early in 2003. Cuyahoga County was the first area to fund both center and family child care providers, putting them on the forefront of the T.E.A.C.H. movement. Since that time, T.E.A.C.H. expanded into Stark, Franklin, and Montgomery counties, thanks to private funding. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services now provides funding for staff and directors in Step Up to Quality centers. Our scholars now represent all areas of Ohio.

The graduates highlighted here represent very motivated women who are dedicated to early care and education. Some care for children in centers, some in their own homes. Some took many classes using the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship; others were eligible for assistance near the end of their studies.

No matter which path each took, her destination was the same – improving the quality of care for Ohio's youngest, and most vulnerable, population.

Please join us in congratulating these women.

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## *Spring 2004 – Tri-C*

Halfway through school, I quit to have my son. When the T.E.A.C.H. program came along, I was very thankful to be able to finish. It took me less than two years to finish. My confidence has increased since graduation. I also received a raise from my center. "I am happy knowing that my son is proud of me."

**Tara Chambers Kane**

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## *Fall 2004 – Tri-C*

It took me four years to graduate. "Without the scholarship I would not have been able to go back to school." I was promoted to lead teacher after receiving my degree. My knowledge has increased thanks to the T.E.A.C.H. program. I am currently working towards my BA degree.

**Jeanette Laracuente**

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## *Spring 2005 – Tri-C*



T.E.A.C.H. allowed me to complete an AAS degree in Early Childhood Education as well as begin work on a BA in Early Education. T.E.A.C.H. has helped me and other teachers reach their professional goals. While earning my degrees I met many wonderful professors and students who shared techniques, skills, and ideas which I have been able to bring back to my classroom. My future includes additional educational experiences; I want to earn a MS in Early Childhood Education and eventually a Ph.D.

**Shalimar Colbert**

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### ***Summer 2005 – Tri-C***

I started on the scholarship with Starting Point. I was promoted to lead teacher after I received my degree. "The degree has helped me learn more in dealing with the children and how they learn." My current long term goal is to work on my BA degree. I enjoy working in the classroom and plan to continue.

**Veronica Moyer**

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### ***Summer 05 – Tri-C***

I am a grandmother and have a daughter in college in early childhood. I worked on my degree for about five years. I heard about the T.E.A.C.H. program through Starting Point and at the college. "I was in the program when it was a pilot program." "It helped to enhance my child care program—totally all the way around." I look back at all that I learned, and applied it to my program. "I feel that I am truly a professional now because of having my Associate Degree along with my Pre-K license."

**Judy Glover**

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### ***Spring 06 - Tri-C***

Attending Cuyahoga Community College, with the help of the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship, has given me many valuable and priceless experiences. I have met new people with a wide variety of teaching styles. I learned new teaching strategies as well as had some of my teaching techniques reinforced. I greatly appreciated paid release time. Paid release time let me enroll in daytime courses and helped my employing center to pay for a substitute teacher to take my place in my classroom. Currently, I am taking courses toward a BA in Early Education.

**Denita Jackson**

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### ***Spring 06 - CSCC***

When my center joined SUTQ, I had already been taking classes. I went to Columbus State and looked into Early Childhood Education and loved it. When I graduated, I was offered a full time position. I hope that my background will help me to be a better mother in the future. "Being newly married at the time, my husband and I were both in school and the T.E.A.C.H. program was a definite help."

**Abby Bowman**

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**Kim Surniak**

***Spring 2006 – Tri-C***

"Teach allowed me to fulfill my dream."

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**Alice Jefferson**

***Summer 06 - CSCC***

I had been taking classes before I started T.E.A.C.H. Another T.E.A.C.H. scholar referred me to the program. I have been a home care provider since August, 1999. I saw a change in learning how children do things. "No child is limited, and we as adults put limitations on them." I am in the process of opening up a facility outside of my home. "Without T.E.A.C.H. I would not have been able to reach my goals. I would strongly recommend it to people who may be in a financial crunch."

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**Certuria Kennebrew**

***Summer 06 – Tri-C***

As a T.E.A.C.H scholar I have been able to pursue an Associates of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education. I graduated in the summer of 2006. I started out this educational journey in the summer of 2003. Since graduation, I have been working on my Bachelors Degree. This is all thanks to the part that the T.E.A.C.H. program played in my life.

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**Tammy Pope-Oulds**

***Fall 07 - Tri-C***

I started as a T.E.A.C.H. scholar in Spring 2003 and graduated with an AAS degree in Fall 2007. I am continuing at Tri-C, with the help of T.E.A.C.H., as I start to work on a bachelor's degree. T.E.A.C.H. helped with many expenses associated with going to school – tuition, textbooks, travel, and substitute care. My goal is to become a special education teacher in an urban school system. I have recommended the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship to other family child care providers because of its financial benefits.

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***Spring 08***

I recommend T.E.A.C.H. to other child care providers because it can help you achieve goals which seemed unattainable. I earned an AAS degree, and my working on a bachelor degree. My educational goal is to earn a master's degree in early childhood education.

**Laura Amato**

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**Velma Brock**

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***Spring 08 - Tri-C***

I began to work on my AAS degree in the Fall of 2002 and graduated in the Spring of 2008. I was able to attend school because of the financial support of T.E.A.C.H. and the moral support of my family. My daughter's decision to attend collage was the unexpected outcome of my pursuit of my educational goal. I intend to enroll at Cleveland State University to earn a Bachelor's Degree.

***Spring 08 - CSCC***

Besides the financial assistance the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship provided me, it also helped me and others to see myself as an educator. Through the process of obtaining my degree I have expanded my teaching techniques. I plan to continue my education and eventually open my own center.

**Carol Monroe-Beasley**

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**Ellen Martens**

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***Summer 08 - Tri-C***

The scholarship from T.E.A.C.H. OHIO enabled me to earn an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. The degree will benefit the children with whom I work. I learned about developmentally appropriate practice, effective teaching techniques, behavioral management skills as well as the importance of communication. I plan to continue my education. T.E.A.C.H. helped me earn my degree with paid release time and financial support.

***Summer 08 - Cincinnati State***

I feel fortunate to be a part of a program that promotes education in the early childhood field. The financial assistance with tuition and books was a tremendous benefit. The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship is a program that I would defiantly recommend to others in the field.

**Stacey Lowry**

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***Fall 08 - Stark State***



**Gail Montana**

T.E.A.C.H. OHIO enabled me to grow as a child care provider, friend, parent, and grandparent. While enrolled in courses at Stark State I underwent the family child care accreditation process. The loving support of my family greatly contributed to my success as a student. My future plans include earning a certificate in sign language and a BA in Early Childhood Education.

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***Fall 08 - Youngstown State University***

I was able to complete my studies with the emotional and moral support of my family and the Jewish Community Child Care Center, and the financial support of T.E.A.C.H. All of my coursework, especially student teaching, contributed to how I teach today. I plan to earn a bachelors degree in Family and Consumer Studies at YSU.

**Angela Franklin**

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***Fall 08 - Cuyuhoga Community College***

T.E.A.C.H. OHIO provided the financial means for me to attend college; my percentage of tuition and textbook costs was minimal. My family, my center director and co-workers provided emotional support throughout my time as a student. My goal is to continue teaching my group of toddlers at Holy Family Learning Center, my current employer.

**Lois Gartin**

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***Winter 08 - CSCC***

The scholarship allowed me to get my education without feeling guilty when my own children were continuing their education. It also allowed me to concentrate on my studies instead of worrying about the money aspect. The counselors served as mentors for me and were always supportive and uplifting.

**Patricia Emmelhainz**



**Angela Williams**

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***Spring 09 - Tri-C***

I teach based on the interest of the children because children learn more when they are interested in what they are being taught. T.E.A.C.H. is an excellent program. The post-contract bonus is an excellent incentive. My mother and daughter were very helpful during my student teaching experience. My future plans include opening a child care center if I could locate funding.

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***Spring 09 - Stark State***

Through my coursework I have learned to plan ahead and offer the children more math activities. My family is proud of me for achieving my goals. I was able to excel because I did not have to worry about money for school-related expenses. T.E.A.C.H. removed the money worry. I plan to continue teaching at First Baptist Preschool.

**Rosemary Fails**

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**Heather Hass**

***Spring 09 - University of Cincinnati***

The T.E.A.C.H. program has allowed me to accomplish my goal. After completing my Associate Degree in Early Childhood with the scholarship, I was overjoyed to learn that I could continue on with my Bachelors Degree. I am grateful for everything the program has helped me to achieve. I couldn't have done it without T.E.A.C.H.



**Weida Reed**

***Summer 09 - Cuyahoga Community College***

I was able to take advantage of the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship for three years. My coursework gave me real life, hands on experiences to learn about and work with children. I have learned to tailor my teaching techniques to the individual children I am teaching. I do not want to stop learning. I intend to enhance and strengthen my skills.



**Audera Ghee**

***Summer 09 - Columbus State***

I have been a home provider for 10 years. I have been a T.E.A.C.H. scholar since 2006. I have gained in my understanding of children and appropriate teaching methods as a consequence of going to school. With the help of T.E.A.C.H. I was able to attend class without worrying about tuition. My future goals include expanding to become a Type A provider or owner of a child care center.



**Jessica Gillispie**

***Summer 09 - Cincinnati State***

I thought I would not be able to return to college due to financial reasons. Then I found T.E.A.C.H. which provided the financial help I needed and a "kick in the butt" to finish my degree and receive certificates in Early Literacy and Child Development. Now I am able to fully focus on utilizing all the developmentally appropriate practice methods I have acquired.

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***Fall 09 - Youngstown State University***



**Dorothy Macklin**

I was able to return to my educational goal of earning an AAS degree in Early Childhood Education with the financial assistance of T.E.A.C.H. The financial support of T.E.A.C.H. along with the emotional support of my family and employing center were invaluable resources which allowed me to progress quickly toward my educational goal. Daily I integrate many of the theories and practices, especially lesson planning strategies, presented in classes into my teaching methods. I will continue to teach as I develop my skills as an administrator and mentor. I intend to continue my academic pursuits at Youngstown State University

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***Winter 2010 – University of Cincinnati***

T.E.A.C.H. gives you the opportunity to complete your education if you can not afford to pay for it all by yourself. The people at T.E.A.C.H. are very helpful if you need anything. It was hard for me to pay for the classes since I have a daughter who is also in college. My teaching methods have improved. I have added more interactive charts to the room and short path games for the children to experience.

**Kimberly Heaton**

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***Spring 2010 - Central Ohio Technical College***

If it weren't for T.E.A.C.H. I would not have been able to complete my Associate degree in early childhood education. T.E.A.C.H. helped with travel, textbooks and coverage while I attended classes. My future plans include expanding my certified Type B home to a Type A home or child care center, and continuing my education.



**Tracy Baker**

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***Spring 2010 - Lorain County Community College***



**Tammy Beeman**

I am a Certified Professional Type B Provider. The financial assistance of T.E.A.C.H. allowed me to complete my degree sooner than anticipated. Without T.E.A.C.H. I would not have been able to enroll in more than 1 course per semester. I am more well-rounded as a teacher. Since I am more informed on early childhood education best practices I am more confident in my teaching abilities. My plan is to continue as a Certified Professional Type B Provider.

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***Spring 2010 – University of Cincinnati***



**Kristin Boles-Felthouse**

I benefited from the TEACH scholarship from them offering to pay a large portion of my schooling. Also, TEACH has kept me motivated to stay in school and continue to go for my bachelors. From what I have learned I was able to apply the knowledge to my teachings and watching the children's reaction and learning, has really shown me a positive effect. I would like to recognize Tonya Ward for being so helpful and patient with me. Every conversation we had was such an enjoyment. Also, I want to recognize my husband and my family for staying patient with me during the past years I have been in school and encouraging me to continue.

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***Spring 2010 – University of Cincinnati***



**Alicia Terry**

As a Type B family provider, I have been involved in the T.E.A.C.H. program for five years. After receiving my CDA, I was fortunate to continued on and complete my Associates Degree in Early Childhood Development. The financial support provided assisted me greatly being successful. Through the experiences and knowledge I have obtained my teaching style has been enriched.

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***Fall 2010 – Cincinnati State Community College***

There are many ways that I have benefited from the T.E.A.C.H. program. I am a mother of three children and a dedicated teacher. Through this tough journey in my life better known as college, I had a partner (T.E.A.C.H.) that knew the right words to use when I needed to hear them and knew the right classes that will give me the most trouble and also wasn't afraid to tell me when I was taking on too many classes in one term. T.E.A.C.H. is one of a kind and I would forever be grateful.

**Queshell Redmond**

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***Fall 2010 – Owens Community College***

This program was a true blessing for me. I would not have been able to reach the goal of obtaining my AAS degree in Early Childhood Education. The program has assisted me in many ways, not just financially. All of my experiences in the program have given me more confidence. My husband & children have been very supportive during my journey. The times I needed to complete homework or be away because of student teaching or have a class would not have been possible without them.

**Linda Watkins Strong**

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***Summer 2010 – Lorain County Community College***

As a T.E.A.C.H. scholar I earned my AAS degree in Early Childhood Education. However, I am not the only one to benefit from T.E.A.C.H. The children in my care benefit every day from the education I received. I teach with more confidence and with more understanding of the developmental process a child goes through to achieve learning. Not only do you receive the financial benefit, but there's the encouragement you receive from your counselor. The counselor helps you every step of the way. My goals are to remain active professionally as a member of the board of directors of the Child Care Resource Center and as the President of the Family Childcare Network of Lorain County. I will continue to operate my NAFCC – accredited Certified Type B home.



**Deborah Ortega**

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***Winter 2011 – Cincinnati State Community College***

The T.E.A.C.H. program was able to provide me with the best learning experiences for me; to be able to obtain the knowledge I needed to guide children then go and implement it into my classroom right away. I recommend the T.E.A.C.H. program to everyone because I may not have been able to financially finish my degree without it. My joy for life has given me this thirst for more knowledge and I am pursuing my BA in Early Childhood Development. I plan to complete my Masters as well. As I look at life through rose colored glasses and the more I learn about Early Childhood Education, I realize the many opportunities that are out there waiting for me in the field.

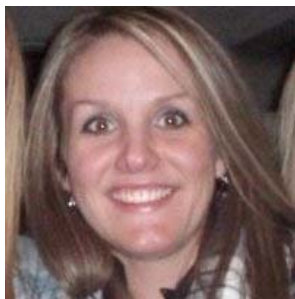
**Zachary McDaniel**

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***Winter 2011 – University of Cincinnati***

I have benefited greatly from the T.E.A.C.H. program which has assisted me in furthering my education in a field that I am extremely passionate about. Without the scholarship program and support of my counselor, I would not be on the professional path I am today. I can see the changes that earning my degree has greatly made in my teaching methods.

I am more knowledgeable in planning and implementing developmentally appropriate activities, as well as creating fun and exciting learning environments that promote development and learning. The following have encouraged and supported me in completing my education with Summa Cum Laude honors: my husband, Bryan; my mother, Susan, my siblings, Katie, Chad, Tommy, Matt and Micheal; my employer, Abilities First; my Director, Kathy and my mentor, Cyndi and I owe them a HUGE thank you. I feel honored and grateful for the opportunity and experience to work with such a fantastic organization. T.E.A.C.H. is a great opportunity for anyone dreaming about educating young children.



**Kellie Horner**

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***Winter 2011 – Columbus State Community College***

I have learned to be a better teacher. I feel I can handle difficult situations in a more professional manner. My family is extremely proud of me for getting my degree. I plan to continue teaching at Little Shepherds Preschool.

**Cinda Solt Crumb**

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***Spring 2011 – Rhodes State College***



**Cheryl Crites**

The support of T.E.A.C.H. helped me to stay motivated to finish my degree. The scholarship included money for tuition and books as well as travel. I graduated with high honors; I was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. I will continue as the administrator at First Baptist Day Care and use my education to help my staff to become better early childhood educators.

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***Spring 2011 – University of Cincinnati***

The T.E.A.C.H. program has enabled me to become a better teacher by learning how to educate all the children in my care. I am more confident, professional and knowledgeable about how children develop and learn through developmentally appropriate practices. Since starting my educational journey I have a better understanding of the importance of planning curriculum based on the children's interest and individual developmental levels. I have to thank God first for my achievement. Also coming through this experience as a home provider, my fantastic husband has been my rock through the last three years. I have recommended the T.E.A.C.H. program to other providers because without T.E.A.C.H. I would not have been able to afford the education. The staff have gone above and beyond just the financial support for me. They were always just a phone or e-mail away to help in any way. I received support and encouragement throughout the whole experience.



**Ronni Steinbeck**

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***Spring 2011 – University of Cincinnati***

Having T.E.A.C.H. was very beneficial with release time that allowed me to have time set aside to work on school work. The incentive to do well and finish my classes was nice to look forward to. I have learned the importance of observation, documentation and working with families and the community to provide the best possible education for children. I have become more consistent in planning and implementing curriculum based on the developmental levels of children. Now I am able to ask open-ended questions to extend children's thinking which in turn leads encourages more investigative play.

Going back to school at this point in my life with 5 boys was defiantly a challenge. However, I was able to maintain the Dean's list and be invited into the University Of Cincinnati's Honor Society Program. I have set a good example for my children and shown them that continuing your education after high school is much easier than the path I choose.

Currently I am enrolled to start my Bachelor degree courses in the fall. I hope to one day be in a position to provide opportunities for families receive their education while insuring their children receive the education they deserve as well.



**Stephanie Brown**

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***Spring 2011 – University of Cincinnati***

T.E.A.C.H. has supported me in my education for 3 1/2 years. It has helped me seek a professional understanding of growth and development of young children. My approaches to every activity has changed, from the materials I use to the developmental appropriateness of the activity for each child. I have learned the importance of getting to know each child before planning. I would like to thank my wonderful husband and children for without their support in my home I couldn't have accomplished this goal. I would also like to thank my mentor for her support through my student teaching.



**Cherie Struk**

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**Kelly Holt**

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***Spring 2011 – Cuyahoga Community College***

T.E.A.C.H. provided tuition and paid release time. I plan to continue my education.

***Spring 2011 – Cuyahoga Community College***

T.E.A.C.H. provided a support system and paid release time. I find I engage children more creatively using their interests.

**Rose Lee**

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**Diane Green**

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***Summer 2011 - Cuyahoga Community College***

T.E.A.C.H. gave me the opportunity to obtain my Associate degree without worrying about finances. I find I am more creative in lesson planning and have a clearer understanding of why some children can have difficulties. I am a Type B Professional who hopes to open a child care center some day.

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***Fall 2011 - Columbus State Community College***

T.E.A.C.H. OHIO offered encouragement and rewarded my academic accomplishments. Not only am I the first of my siblings to graduate from college, but I made the Dean's List several quarters. My family, including my twin 20-year-old daughters, is proud of my academic accomplishments. My future plans include pursuing a bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

**Stacy McLain**

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***Early Fall 2011 - Cincinnati State Community College***

The (Paid Release Time) and travel stipend is a great part of the program. Even though there were still evening classes and late night study hours, my family supported me with completing my Associates Degree. Through my journey I have learned more developmentally appropriate activities with the children. It has also taught me to be more patient and understanding with the children and their parents. Now I can look towards my goal of becoming a director one day. I hope to mentor others in achieving their goals of completing an Associates Degree in Early Child Care.



**Kelli Wick**



**Tammy Pope-Oulds**

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***Fall 2011 - Cleveland State University***

Support from my family, school friends, and T.E.A.C.H. OHIO helped me achieve my goal of earning my bachelor degree. I intend to continue my education; I want to earn a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction. I want to work with special needs children.

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***Fall 2011 - Cuyahoga Community College***

I have been a home child care provider for 18 years. I was awarded the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship in January 2006. My skills and professionalism developed because I was open to learning and embraced the knowledge presented. T.E.A.C.H. provided the encouragement and financial support I needed to earn my Associate degree. My future plans include securing a position with a school system.

**Sonji Stone**

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***Fall 2011 - Cuyahoga Community College***



**Denise Braziel**

With the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship I was able to earn my associate degree in Early Childhood Education. With my degree I have acquired a better paying position with my sponsoring center. I am so proud to have earned my degree; I join my daughter and sons as college graduates. I would like to earn a bachelor degree.