

**University of Oklahoma**  
**Norman, Oklahoma**

**Institution Contact Information:**

**First Name:** Sherry                      **Last Name:** Cox  
**Title:** Assistant Dean Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education  
**Email:** scox@ou.edu

---

**TEACH Grant Recipient**

**First Name:** Alexandra                      **Last Name:** Pfeiffer

**Student Profile:**

I have always known I wanted to teach special needs children for as long as I can remember. From simply befriending an autistic child in my grade on the playground in elementary school to being actively involved in clubs that support and work with the special needs students and adults in my community, I have always found a way to advocate for special needs people and that is something I cannot wait to spend the rest of my life doing. As commonly known, teaching is an incredibly low paying field to go into. Considering the cost of higher education that is required to become a teacher, student loans are something that myself and other future teachers simply cannot afford. I personally have a single mother who works so incredibly hard to pay for as much of my college as she can so that I can pursue my lifelong dream of being a special needs teacher, even though I won't get paid much to do so. My mom and I go back and forth between each other not wanting to have to deal with the stress of college loans to pay off. As a single mom with another child who will be headed to college in the next few years, she cannot afford college loans. As someone pursuing my lifelong dream in a low paying field, I cannot afford the loans either. Discovering the TEACH grant has lifted a huge weight off both my mothers and my own shoulders. I am able to pursue my dreams without worrying about the financial strain it is putting on my mom who works so hard for me and my sister. Without the TEACH grant, I have no idea what college or university I would be at today instead of the one I get to attend because of it and I get to focus on the things a college student should be focusing on; My studying so that I can be the best possible teacher I can be to educate the future leaders of our world. Continuing funding for the TEACH grant would continue to allow many eager and hardworking future teachers like myself to pursue our dreams and educate our world. I not only speak for myself, but the many other recipients of the teach grant when I say how truly grateful we are for the opportunities and doors the TEACH grant has opened for us.