

University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Institution Contact Information:

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TEACH Grant Recipient

First Name: Taylor **Last Name:** Herndon

Student Profile:

I have always loved helping others and teaching them what I am passionate about. As a little girl, I always knew I wanted to be a teacher but I ran from this dream. I did this because my father constantly told me that teachers make no money and I will have to work two jobs. In high school, I decided to stop running from this dream because I loved teaching. I want to teach my future students about their calling like my teachers did. I want to be the hope that many teens do not receive elsewhere. I want to be the teacher that always has an open door for my students to talk to about life or tutoring. I will teach my students math skills and concepts and also life skills. I want to reassure my students that their teachers care so much about them and their success. To be able to successfully achieve this goal, I am attending the University of Oklahoma in pursuit of my degree in Secondary Mathematics Education. However, none of this would be possible if I did not have the TEACH grant. Without the TEACH grant I could not attend the University of Oklahoma. I come from the lower to middle class where it is unusual to be able to afford to go to college, especially the University of Oklahoma, only my father attended college for a year then dropped out. Being a recipient of the TEACH grant has helped me reduce the amount of student loans I take out. Along with the stress that school has, the TEACH grant has been a weight lifted off of my shoulders. Sometimes I catch myself worrying more about my student loans than my schoolwork. As you can see, the TEACH grant helps tremendously in my life. I could not attend school without it and pursue this life long dream of mine to be a high school math teacher.