Wittenberg University
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Institution Contact Information:

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TEACH Grant Recipient

First Name: Lydia **Last Name:** Newton

Student Profile:

As a recipient of the TEACH grant, I urge you to continue this program for future educators like myself. I am Lydia Newton and I go to Wittenberg University majoring in Early Childhood (P-3) and Special Education (K-12). When I graduate, I plan to teach at a low-income school as an Intervention Specialist, and here is why I want to do it: I teach because for some students, I will be the only person who believes in them. For some students I am the only one to encourage them, to help them to believe in themselves, and to get them excited about learning. I teach because I am very passionate about teaching children, especially children with special needs. I take pride in watching a student finally get a concept and really understand it. I love it when a student asks me a question I can't answer on the spot because that means I have more to learn. I teach because nothing else is as challenging or as rewarding.

I was happy to initially find out about the TEACH grant via FASFA and other recommenders. If it wasn't for the TEACH grant, I probably wouldn't be in the field of education today. This grant helps fund a big portion of my tuition and without it, I most likely will not be able to attend Wittenberg University. I am on the low-income spectrum of students here at Wittenberg and this grant helps reduce my student loan debt tremendously, along with the federal aid I get from the FASFA.

Another important reason why I need the TEACH grant to fund my education is because my parents are not paying any part of my tuition. My mom and my stepdad have recently lost their small business in painting and it took a huge toll on the family finances. I had to get a second job to help pay most of the household bills. Recently, my mom had to go back to work at a factory full time while my stepdad is still out of work. They are still struggling to this day. This situation takes a toll on my overall health and my education. So, after I graduate I will solely be paying my student loans and their accumulated interest. I am relying on my career as being an Intervention Specialist to pay for the remaining tuition and fees. As you may know, the education field does not pay as much as other majors do. Therefore, I need the TEACH grant to help me achieve my dream in becoming an educator, because without the funds, the dream would merely just be a dream!