Northwestern State University
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Institution Contact Information:

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TEACH Grant Recipient

First Name: Alecia **Last Name:** Alford

Student Profile:

My name is Alecia Alford. I am the oldest of seven children, and have grown up in a low income family all my life; which means that I have grown up knowing that my future was in my hands. I knew that I could not depend upon my parents or family members to help me pay for college, no matter how much they might like to. This has proven true, and I have been pretty much on my own since I graduated high school. My dream of teaching someday seemed daunting and almost impossible as I imagined going into debt, and spending the rest of my life paying that debt off like my parents have. A miracle came about, however, in the form of a teacher (of course) who advised me to consider the TEACH grant. This grant has allowed me to make it through most of my schooling with little to no loans at all, and my plan now is to have all of my schooling paid off with in four years (if not less) of graduating! The truth is that I am terrified of going into debt, because I have seen the effects it has on a person, a family, and their future. I have not had to worry about this, however, due to this grant. The money has been used to pay for books, some of tuition, transportation, and a computer to do my work on. I still work two jobs, and I am barely making ends meet... But the big expenses have been taken care of, and that has made all the difference! I appreciate this help to no end, and know that I can only do my best to pay it forward by teaching children to become the people they are meant to be, so that they can one day lead our great nation well in the future!