

Georgia State University
Atlanta, Georgia

Institution Contact Information:

First Name: Angela **Last Name:** Turk
Title: Director of Communications
Email: aturk@gsu.edu

TEACH Grant Recipient

First Name: Merinda **Last Name:** Baker

Student Profile:

At the age of 9 years old, I watched the kids across the street from me get taken away to foster care. These were the same boys that attended my elementary school. It made me think, "Do teachers really know what students go through at home?" From that point, I knew I had to get into the educational system and be that support for low-income students in schools. My mother is also an educator. I've watched her treat so many students as if they were her own. She's everything that I aspire to be as an educator.

My long term goal in the field of education is to become a principal. I plan to get my specialist degree in educational leadership. However, I do not plan to pursue this goal until I've completed many years in the classroom.

I am in my second semester receiving the TEACH grant and it has definitely been beneficial to my life. It's fairly difficult to have a job in addition to completing my placement and school work. Therefore, receiving the TEACH grant has allowed me to be financially stable while completing my practicum requirements.

Merinda Baker (B.S.E. Early Childhood Education/Special Education '17)
Georgia State University