Virginina Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia

Institution Contact Information:

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TEACH Grant Recipient

First Name: Tricksome **Last Name:** Stevens

Student Profile:

My name is Tricksome Stevens. I am an implant to Virginia via South Carolina. My five children and I moved up here in August 2015 looking for better opportunities. I began the process of the Richmond Teacher Residency Program in October 2015 and was accepted as a candidate in December of the same year. The uncertainty we began to feel when we first moved here started to give way and our lives in Virginia started to become concrete. I started working as a substitute before transitioning into a full-time job as an Exceptional Education Instructional Assistant with Chesterfield County. I left my job with Chesterfield County to start the Richmond Teacher Residency Program in May 2016. This was not an easy transition for me and I worried about finances. I needed to make sure I could take care of my family and continue my education. The security of financial aid and the TEACH Grant comforted me in my decision. I was able to maintain my tuition, bills and my family needs. Yes, the TEACH Grant is a commitment, but I also look at is as security. I know where I will be for the next four years. This will give me a clear plan to plan for my future and learn more about the community I serve. On May 13, 2017, my family and I will graduate with a Masters in Special Education. This year has been rough and aggressive at times. I have learned so much in a short year and my family's future is looking brighter every day. I would not have been able to get this far without the help and sacrifice of my children, assistance of some wonderful people and the assistance of the TEACH Grant.