Stephen F. Austin State University
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Institution Contact Information:

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TEACH Grant Recipient

First Name: Mackenzie **Last Name:** Hankins

Student Profile:

I have aspired to be a Special Education teacher from minute one. Teaching has always been a passion of mine, especially when it comes to educating students with special needs. I am currently student teaching; it has been such a rewarding experience to watch students grow and achieve in ways they never thought they could. The only way I could have this humbling experience was through the Education Preparation Program at my university. I can look back to when I first enrolled at my university: worried about the financial burden and stress that comes with taking college courses. I breathed a sigh of relief when I first heard of the TEACH Grant, and how it pertains specifically to my situation as an aspiring teacher in a high need classroom. This grant has allowed me to focus less on the financial stress of college and focus more on developing my skills as a future educator. Attending college has been a major milestone in achieving my dream of becoming a teacher. I will graduate this May being the first of my intermediate and extended family to hold a Bachelors degree. I attribute my success to the financial assistance I received from the TEACH Grant. A grant that not only supports my collegiate endeavors but also motivates me to maintain high academic achievement.