



What is Teach First?

Teach First is a program for first-generation college students who want to become teachers (first-generation means neither parent has earned a college degree). The program provides mentoring and resources, including an annual scholarship, to help aspiring teachers meet their academic and professional goals.

Students in the Teach First program meet regularly in large and small group settings, receive individualized guidance from the program director and become part of a support network of peers, faculty and professional educators.

Teach First also provides students with opportunities to attend teaching workshops and professional education meetings, exposure to a classroom setting from their first year of college at North Central, and many field experiences at local public schools to help launch a successful teaching career.



NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE At a Glance

Founded in 1861, North Central College is an independent, coeducational, comprehensive college of the liberal arts and sciences offering 55 undergraduate majors and six graduate degrees. North Central College is affiliated with the United Methodist Church and is

- one of "America's Best Colleges" by U.S. News & World Report, which cites it as one of the top six schools in the Midwest for "strong commitment to undergraduate teaching"
- winner of 28 national championships in Division III sports
- ranked as "a college for high-achieving students" by Peterson's Competitive Colleges
- one of Princeton Review's "Best in the Midwest" Colleges

For more information contact

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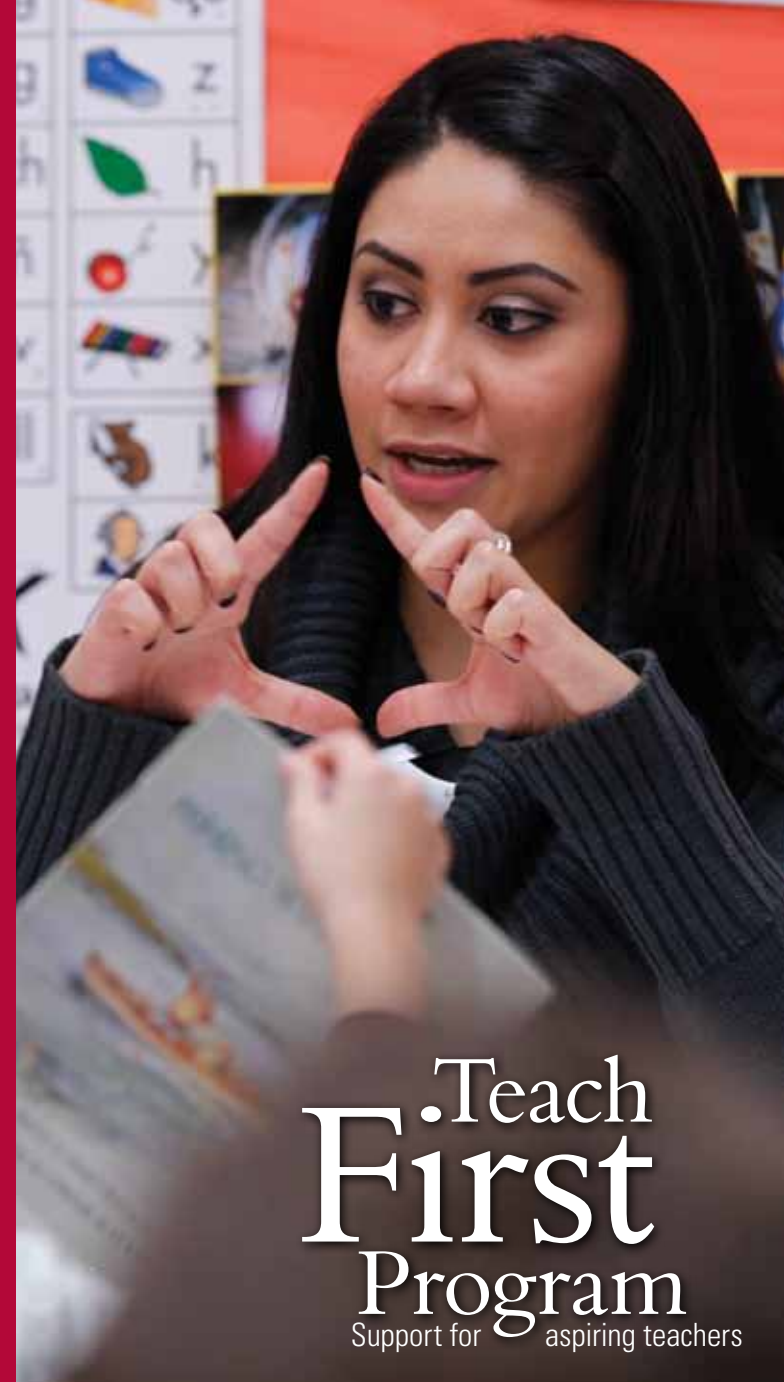
northcentralcollege.edu/teachfirst

Sponsorship and Application

Teach First is partially supported by a generous grant from the Dunham Fund of Aurora, IL. Students from the greater Aurora area who will be a first-generation college student may be eligible for a Dunham Fund Scholarship. Applications are due March 2. Contact the Teach First director for details about the scholarship and program.



Michael Schwartz '12 from Aurora, IL, is one of the 2011-2012 recipients of the Dunham Fund Scholarship.



Teach First Program

Support for aspiring teachers





Jill Bushman '10



Stephanie Sharp '11



Emily Padilla '10

What do participants think about Teach First?



"My favorite part of the Teach First program is meeting new people and having service options. The Teach First program has so many opportunities to strengthen my communication skills as well as help others in need."

Jami Royer '13 (DeKalb, IL)

"Teach First allows me to grow and learn with other students who share the same passion of becoming an educator. Also, the D-Term field experience allowed me to get into the classroom my first year of college. This is when I realized I was going into a profession that I loved."

Jake Murphy '12 (Woodstock, IL)



"Teach First has given me the opportunity to meet students with similar ambitions. Being a first-generation college student is a challenge, especially in the beginning, but Teach First has served as an extra support system I can rely on. Through Teach First I have also been able to practice leadership skills that will help me to pursue my dream of being a school administrator."

Ashlyn D. Schrepfer '12 (Plainfield, IL)

What do our Graduates think about Teach First?

"I would recommend the Teach First program to other first-generation students because it provides a sense of community where everyone can relate to the ups and downs of college life and the desire to be the first in your family to graduate college. My parents are proud to say I'm a teacher."

Emily Padilla '10 (Naperville, IL)
First grade teacher, Naperville

"Being at North Central College, I have challenged myself in ways I never imagined. While everyone in Teach First worked on being the first college graduate within our families, we also worked on accomplishing our dreams of becoming teachers."

Stephanie Sharp '11 (Romeoville, IL)
Kindergarten teacher, Plainfield

"Teach First provided a very supportive community and allowed me to form many positive relationships on campus. There was always a strong sense of support and care for me as an individual as well as my future successes in the field of education."

Meg Holland '11 (Midlothian, IL)
High school math teacher, Forest Park

"Teach First is a great networking opportunity. Throughout my years with the program I was able to gain experience in three different high-need schools with diverse populations. I also met principals who helped me get the job I have today."

Jill Bushman '10 (Dixon, IL)
Third/fourth grade teacher, East Aurora School District

What are the Benefits of Teach First?

Academic and Personal Development

- One-on-one mentoring with Teach First director
- Monthly luncheons with Teach First peers
- Service opportunities with local organizations
- Free workshops including
 - » Time and stress management
 - » Preparation for final exams
 - » Daily money management
 - » Life balance

Professional Development

- Networking dinners with North Central College alumni
- Opportunities to attend professional conferences, including the Associated Colleges of Illinois Teacher Academies
- Engagement in peer learning community
- Elementary and secondary classroom experience
- Guidance on résumé writing and interviewing



Meg Holland '11