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**Get started on your road to
a teaching degree today!**

Contact the SECU Partnership
East coordinator in your
area for more information
about ECU teaching degree
completion.

Coastal Consortium
Craven Community College
252-638-6492
COASTALPE@ecu.edu

North Central Consortium
Nash Community College
252-451-8212
NORTHCENTRALPE@ecu.edu

South Central Consortium
Wayne Community College
919-739-7012
SOUTHCENTRALPE@ecu.edu

Virtual and Northeast Consortia
Pitt Community College
Beaufort County Community
College
252-493-7659
VIRTUALPE@ecu.edu

*"A teacher touches eternity...
she will never know where
her influence stops."*

- Henry Adams

Teaching Tomorrow

A Newsletter for
Prospective Teacher Education Students

Volume 8, Issue 1 • 2014-2015

The Gift that will keep on Giving

Darla Gunter is a wife, mother, grandmother, public school employee, and one of ECU's first recipients of the generous financial support from the State Employees' Credit Union Foundation for the SECU Partnership East Program. The purpose of SECU Partnership East is to provide students with access to high quality Teacher Education degree-completion programs close to home. Students graduate with a four-year degree from East Carolina University (ECU) by completing the first two years of the program at any North Carolina Community College followed by taking ECU courses on-line.

Darla fell in love with education over 18 years ago when she began substitute teaching in Harnett County Schools. Darla was drawn to special education because she found it so rewarding while substitute teaching. Her love of education continued as she took a full time position as the receptionist at a local high school. Although she dreamed of one day becoming a teacher, Darla knew that it would not be possible to work full time, care for a family, and attend college. She was excited to discover that she would be able to complete her degree online while still working full time through the SECU Partnership East Program.

After meeting with ECU Program Coordinators to learn more about the program and map out a plan of action, Darla began online courses part-time through ECU in the fall of 2011. When asked what she enjoys most about the program Darla states, "I enjoy the flexibility. I plan my classes around my life. I also love the fact that even though it is an online program, we still interact with our classmates and our professors. You know you are a part of East Carolina, not just another online program."

As one of the first recipients of the SECU scholarship, Darla shared that the SECU scholarship helped to ease the cost of college tuition and books during her Senior II semester. "I cannot begin to express with words how much their gift meant to me and my family. It was completely unexpected and such a generous gift, I am extremely grateful for the SECU scholarship."

Darla Gunter graduated summer 2014 from East Carolina University with her degree in Special Education General Curriculum. She looks forward to giving back to her community by becoming a special educator in Harnett County.



Did You Know?

Did you know that SECU Partnership East graduates have a high rate of employment?

Check out these statistics about our graduates:

- 586 graduates
- 74% of Partnership East graduates are employed compared to about 60% of on-campus graduates
- 90% of Partnership East graduates who are teaching are doing so in eastern NC



BECOME A TEACHER! Complete an ECU Teaching Degree through SECU Partnership East (PE)

1. Apply to a NC Community College and complete the general education requirements.
2. Apply for Financial Aid at the community college.
3. Register for community college courses. Find a checklist at www.ecu.edu/PE
4. Schedule an appointment with a SECU Partnership East Coordinator.
5. Take the Praxis-CORE in reading, writing, and math, as it is required to apply for a PE program.
6. Apply to SECU Partnership East.



REQUIREMENTS FOR SECU PARTNERSHIP EAST (PE) ADMISSION

Part-Time Programs (ELEM or SPED)	Full-Time Elementary Program
Complete community college courses on checklist	Complete community college courses on checklist
2.5 Transfer GPA in community college courses	3.0 Transfer GPA in community college courses
Praxis-CORE scores within 5 points of passing	Passing Praxis-CORE scores
Conference with an SECU PE Coordinator	Conference with an SECU PE Coordinator
Eligibility for admission into East Carolina University	Eligibility for admission into East Carolina University
PE Application Deadline: February 15 prior to fall	PE Application Deadline: January 15 prior to summer

7. Apply for admission to East Carolina University based on the pace of program you hope to study at
 - a. In February for full-time elementary with a summer 2 start term
 - b. In March for part-time programs with a fall start term

*In order to take courses through PE, students must be enrolled at ECU. Create your Pirate Port account to apply online (www.ecu.edu/admissions) and track your admission status.
8. Apply for Financial Aid at ECU.

Praxis Test Requirement

Students interested in becoming teachers need to present scores from prerequisite general knowledge tests when applying to SECU Partnership East and to Upper Division of teacher education programs. Previously, the most common test was the Praxis I (PPST). Recently the PPST has been replaced by the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core). Like the PPST, the Praxis Core consists of 3 tests including reading, writing and mathematics. Students may take Praxis Core tests at computer testing centers around the state. Available testing windows and locations along with registration can be found at the Educational Testing Service (ETS) website www.ets.org. Study guides and sample tests are also provided by ETS. **Allow 3-6 weeks to receive scores.**

Passing Praxis I scores from tests administered prior to June 30, 2014 as well as qualifying SAT and ACT scores may also be submitted to meet testing requirements. Contact the PE coordinator in your area for more information.



A Pirate's Treasure – Financial Assistance to Fund Your Education

Students that participate in select SECU Partnership East cohorts will be eligible to receive up to \$3,800 of financial support during their **Senior Year Internship semesters.**

- Senior I Semester: \$1,000 of Tuition Support
- Senior II Semester: Tuition Support + Student Stipend = \$2,800

Additionally, you may be eligible for financial aid in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, or employee assistance programs. It is never too late to learn about financial aid. There is a free course online called, Financial Literacy 101 (https://www.cfnc.org/paying/financial_literacy.jsp). This course may be useful in helping you understand various types of financial aid and application procedures.

All college students should complete a FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid, online at www.fafsa.gov. Even if you do not qualify for federal aid such as a Pell Grant; other types of financial aid may be available but require documentation of a completed FAFSA. If you need assistance completing the FAFSA, visit your Financial Aid office at your community college. Due to changes to the Federal Pell Grant summer funding please check with your financial aid office to plan in advance for your summer education funding options.

For additional resources to fund your education, visit the websites below:

1. Comprehensive information on student aid: www.studentaid.ed.gov and <http://www.finaid.org/>
2. College Foundation of North Carolina: <http://www.cfnc.org> or call 1-888-866-2362
 - a. Forgivable Education Loans for Services
 - b. N. C. Community College Grant and Loan Program
 - c. Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program
3. Military Financial Assistance
 - a. Tuition Assistance: <http://www.military.com/education/content/money-for-school/tuition-assistance-ta-program-overview.html>
 - b. Spouse Tuition Assistance: <http://www.education4military.com/a/military/military-spouse.aspx>