

2021-2022 Beginning Teacher Scholarship Winners

1. Connie Pettitt (University of Houston-Victoria) Her major area of study is Education (4-8) and she will take her teaching certification tests in March and April of 2021. Connie's goal is to become a Physical Education teacher at the Junior High level and wants to inspire students to "be the best they can be at whatever they choose." She was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member and TRTF Trustee, Brenda Ritter of Katy, Texas.
2. Daniella Renee Puente (Sam Houston University) Her major area of study is Education and was on the Dean's List and President's List every semester of college. Her vision and aspiration for public education in Texas are "for every student to feel valued in the classroom and comfortable to share their ideas." Daniella was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Melissa Lee of Humble, Texas.
3. Davette Brannon-Ward (University of Phoenix) Her major area of study is English with a minor in Psychology. Davette says her vision for public education in Texas is simple- "to educate the whole child." She says, "As a teacher, I can foster emotional intelligence by incorporating Social and Emotional learning into my lessons." Davette was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Patricia Boren of Dallas, Texas.
4. Heather Barron (University of Phoenix) Her major area of study is Psychology with a minor in Elementary Education. Heather says she "wants to bring excitement back into the classroom with creative and innovative technologies and engagements, while fostering a sense of trust and inclusivity for her students and their families so they all feel welcome." Heather was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Susan Burroughs of Porter, Texas.
5. Jamey Germany (Texas Tech University) Her major area of study is Education, and she was on the President's List three times in college. Jamey says that student teaching provided her with "an incredible amount of learning experiences that she will be able to incorporate into her classroom this fall." She was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Tommy Hays of Fritch, Texas.
6. Kacey Bailey Garcia (Texas Tech University) Her major area of study is Education. Kacey says her goal is to "always be open to change and doing what is best for the children" and wants to create an environment where her students are "comfortable enough to step out outside their comfort zone." She was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Martha Turney of Slaton, Texas.
7. Katie Cummings (Texas A&M University) Her major area of study is Education. Katie says, "As a teacher, I hope to create a classroom where students feel comfortable being

who they are, asking questions, being silly, making mistakes, and most importantly, learning.” She hopes to teach lower elementary and believes that “play and exploration is still a huge factor in student learning at this age.” Katie was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Jan Miller of Corsicana, Texas.

8. Katie Rydell (Southwestern University) Her major area of study is Education, and she was on the Dean’s List for six semesters while in college. Katie says her vision for Texas schools is that “they lead out the greatness in all students so that the world may be made great.” The three elements that she believes are essential for this approach are 1.) creating classrooms that value diversity 2.) promoting students’ natural curiosity for learning and 3.) engaging in reflection. Katie was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Darlene Rydell of Taylor, Texas.
9. Kristina Coronado (University of Texas- Rio Grande Valley) Her major area of study is Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in Elementary Bilingual. Cristina’s aspirations as a future bilingual educator are to “provide the tools my students need to become better readers, writers, scientists, mathematicians, and most importantly, better human beings.” She was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Sylvia Perez of Brownsville, Texas.
10. Laine Gomes Cornish (IAG/PUC Rio (Brazil)) is originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, but has lived in Texas for five years now. She has a bachelor’s in arts with a major in Communication as well as an MBA in Marketing. Currently she is working as a Special Education Teacher Assistant in Denton ISD, with plans to take her certification exams this summer. Laine says she hopes that her “vast life experience as well as her experience with different cultures will make a difference in her students’ lives as well as her colleagues.” She was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Mary Helen Cornish.
11. Macey Waid (Texas Tech University) Her major area of study is Multidisciplinary Studies with a minor in Technical Theatre Design and she wants to be a Freshman English teacher. Macey says her students will know that they are cared for and respected, and she will hold them to high standards with lots of grace. She was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Peggy Waid of Denton, Texas.
12. Mackenzie Hill (Texas A&M- Commerce) Her major area of study is Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in Childhood Education. Mackenzie says her vision for her future classroom includes lots of manipulatives, inspirational quotes, and all the materials needed for her students to feel comfortable. She says she will strive to do her best to inspire her students to have a growth mindset, set goals, be kind, and “not stress over

spilled milk.” Mackenzie was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Kimberley Boswell of Barry, Texas.

13. Madelyn Pipes (Texas A&M University- Texarkana) Her major area of study is Early Childhood Education, and she has known she wanted to be a Kindergarten teacher since she was in Kindergarten. She plans to bring “comfort and safety to the classroom” and wants to utilize technology to benefit her students. Madelyn was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Kerry James of Texarkana, Texas.
14. Madison Cooley (East Texas Baptist University) Her major area of study is Elementary Education and she believes that “classrooms should be student centered, where students have ownership of their learning and are involved in the learning process.” Madison was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Carol Cooley of Mesquite, Texas.
15. Madison Jan (University of Houston) Her major area of study is Education, and she has always wanted to give back to society in a way that inspires generations to come. Madison says, “As a special needs teacher, my goal will be to help my students in the areas of developing to their full potential, as well as giving them the emotional and academic support they need.” She was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member and TRTF Trustee, Carla Meuth of Rosenberg, Texas.
16. Melissa Edgar (Lubbock Christian) Her major area of study is Early Childhood Education and she is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education. Melissa believes “public schools in Texas have an opportunity to provide students resources and community while still individualizing learning goals for each student.” She plans to have frequent, hands-on activities where her students can learn by creating and exploring. Melissa was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Dennis Hargrove of Lubbock, Texas.
17. Michele Schmidt (Our Lady of the Lake University) Her major area of study is Liberal Arts with a minor in Political Science. Currently, Michele is a substitute teacher with Humble ISD, and plans to take her teaching certification tests in July 2021. She says she “thrives on finding ways to stimulate and encourage her students’ love of learning” and plans to facilitate that as a full-time teacher. She was referred for this scholarship by Mary Lou Purrello of Kingwood, Texas.
18. Ryan O’Bryant (University of San Francisco) His major area of study is Sports Management with a minor in Business Administration. Ryan says his vision for public education in Texas is “to provide an opportunity for all children to feel represented and

have a positive role model to help them on their journey of education.” He was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Carol Frosch of Bryan, Texas.

19. Rylee Morrow (University of Houston- Victoria) Her major area of study is Interdisciplinary Studies and she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 GPA. Rylee’s vision is to incorporate both teacher and student-centered instruction into her classroom. She says she “loves hands-on activities and hopes to teach her students how to ask questions and seek answers themselves.” Rylee was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Doris Anadel of Edna, Texas.
20. Sara Heinrichs (Howard Payne University) Her major area of study is Theatre Education with a minor in Psychology, and she was on the President’s List each semester for receiving a 4.0 GPA. Sara says she “wants to teach in a way that meets every student at their strengths and challenges them to face their weaknesses.” She was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Kathryn Heinrichs of Hico, Texas.
21. Sarah Mansfield (Texas Tech University) Her major area of study is Early Childhood Education. Sarah’s main goal as a teacher is to encourage her students to believe in themselves no matter what. She would like to implement a word wall for vocabulary in classroom as well as utilize technology through the use of iPads or laptops. Sarah was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Peggy Waid of Denton, Texas.
22. Therese Cosgray (Texas A&M University) Her major area of study is EC-6 Generalist. She says, “As a teacher, it is my job to meet the needs of each of my students, so that I can teach the whole student.” Therese’s vision for public education is to mold young men and women of virtue to respect others and serve their communities. She was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member and TRTF Trustee, Brenda Ritter of Katy, Texas.