



WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

DREAM OF BEING A TEACHER?

*Join a community of learners and start your
journey to becoming a teacher through the
Grow Our Own EA to Teacher Ladder Program!*



LEARN MORE



WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY • INNOVATION • EXCELLENCE

GROW OUR OWN



EA TO TEACHER LADDER PROGRAM



SHELLY SIP
Westgate Elementary School Teacher,
Grow Our Own Cohort 2 Graduate

Made possible by the generous support of our local donors, and state and federal grants, Westside Community Schools offers a FULLY FUNDED undergraduate program at **Midland University's Omaha campus** — helping Educational Assistants (EAs) take the next step to becoming certified teachers.

**Earn a
Bachelor's
Degree
at No Cost
to You!**

Program Objectives:

- Recruit and select highly qualified (currently employed) educational assistants.
- Enroll them in a paid program of study with **Midland University** that will lead towards Nebraska Teacher Certification.
- After successful completion, employ them to teach within Westside Community Schools' classrooms and enrich our students' lives in new and even more meaningful ways.



Upon successful completion of program

Desirae Anson

Westside High School Educational Assistant,
Grow Our Own Cohort 3 Participant



Programs Offered



2 Year In Person: Teacher Career Ladder

- For those who have earned college credits but may not have earned a degree.
- Two evenings a week in person classes.

2 Year Online: Teacher Career Ladder

- For those who have earned college credits but may not have earned a degree.
- 100% online (with the exception of student teaching).

3 Year Online: Three to Teach

- For those with little to no college credits.
- 100% online (with the exception of student teaching).



2 YEAR IN PERSON: TEACHER CAREER LADDER



Prerequisites:

- Hold 40 or more undergraduate credits. Those credits must include coursework in Math, Communication, Writing, ELA, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Health and Arts/Humanities.
- Students who have less than 40 credits may still be eligible but the missing credits must be taken outside the program. Option to take courses concurrent to the Midland program is based on credits needed. Westside's Grow Our Own Program will potentially fund these classes.

Important to Know



Class Times

Classes are held in person two evenings per week. Sessions typically take place Monday & Wednesdays, or Tuesday & Thursdays from 4:45 - 9:00 pm.



Location

Classes are held at Midland University's Omaha campus near 114th and Dodge Street.



What's Included

Not only is tuition funded through Westside Community Schools and donors, but also included is: University issued iPad, books, and support through mentors and university resources.



Grow Our Own Cohort 1 Graduates
Spring, 2024

Endorsement Areas

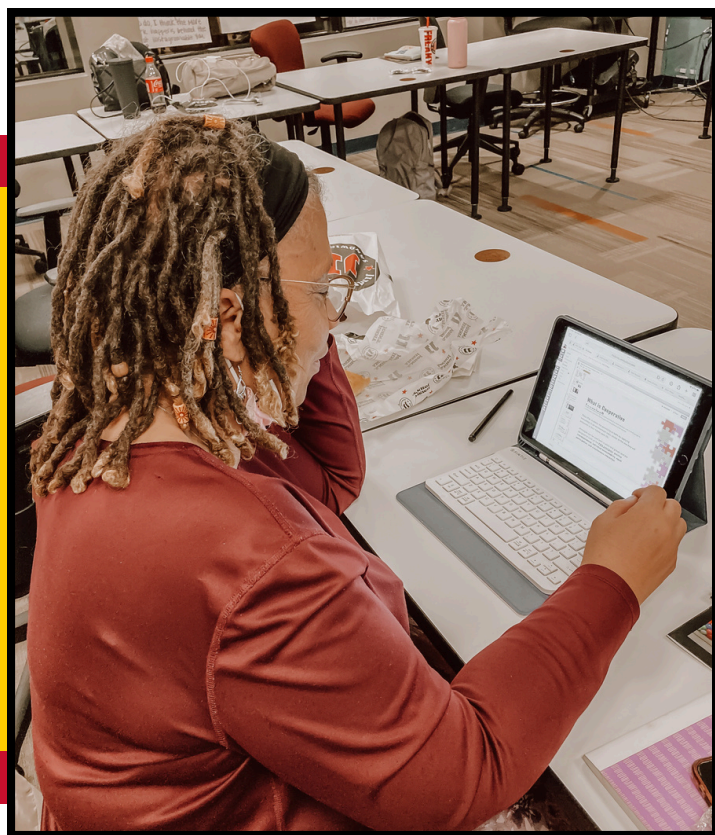
- Candidates will earn one of the following:
 - Bachelor's in Elementary Education (K-6) with either a Special Education, ESL or Early Childhood Education endorsement.
 - Bachelor's in Secondary Education (7-12) with a Special Education endorsement .

"The satisfaction of helping young people and learning from them is the greatest feeling. The Grow Our Own program has given me an opportunity for a better career and a more fulfilled life that I would not have been able to obtain without their financial assistance."

Mike Keller, Grow Our Own Cohort 3 Participant



2 YEAR IN ONLINE: TEACHER CAREER LADDER



Carolyn Devereaux-Cordell
Westside High School Teacher,
Grow Our Own Cohort 1 Graduate and Mentor

Prerequisites:

- Hold 40 or more undergraduate credits. Those credits must include coursework in Math, Communication, Writing, ELA, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Health and Arts/Humanities.
- Students who have less than 40 credits may still be eligible but the missing credits must be taken outside the program. Option to take courses concurrent to the Midland program is based on credits needed. Westside's Grow Our Program will potentially fund these classes.

Endorsement Areas

- Candidates will earn one of the following:
 - Bachelor's in Elementary Education (K-6) with either a Special Education, ESL or Early Childhood Education endorsement.
 - Bachelor's in Secondary Education (7-12) with a Special Education endorsement.

Important to Know



Class Times

The online program is delivered exclusively online with both synchronous and asynchronous components.



What's Included

Not only is tuition funded through Westside Community Schools and donors, but also included is: University issued iPad, books, and support through mentors and university resources.

"Being part of Grow Our Own means I can focus on my education without the stress of tuition. It has opened doors I never thought possible and inspires me to give back to my community."

Carolyn Devereaux - Cordell, Grow Our Own Cohort 1 Graduate and Mentor

3 YEAR ONLINE: THREE TO TEACH



Rilee Filip

Loveland Elementary Special Education Teacher
Grow Our Own Cohort 1 Graduate and Mentor

Prerequisites:

- There are no prerequisite courses or completed credit hours required to be eligible for this program.
- Students who have some post-secondary credits may be eligible to apply previously earned coursework toward their program.

Endorsement Areas

- Candidates will earn one of the following:
 - Bachelor's in Elementary Education (K-6) with either a Special Education, ESL or Early Childhood Education endorsement.
 - Bachelor's in Secondary Education (7-12) with a Special Education endorsement.

Important to Know



Class Times

The online program is delivered exclusively online with both synchronous and asynchronous components. Classes begin in June.



What's Included

Not only is tuition funded through Westside Community Schools and donors, but also included is: University issued iPad, books, and support through mentors and university resources.

"I'm grateful for the experience of working hard for students while also working hard as a student myself. Now, I have the opportunity to show up for my students every day and create a safe environment where they can thrive."

Nena Brown, Grow Our Own Cohort 1 Graduate

Supports Provided

Westside Community Schools, in partnership with Midland University, provides a wide range of supports to guide you throughout your educational journey in the Grow Our Own EA to Teacher Ladder Program. These supports include:

Alumni Mentor

As a member of the Westside Donor-Funded Grow Our Own Cohort, you will be paired with an alumni mentor who will serve as a guide throughout your educational journey. Your alumni mentor, a graduate of the program, will offer encouragement, support, and insight drawn from firsthand experience, providing you with a trusted resource who truly understands your path.

OR

Building Mentor

For Grow Our Own Cohort members participating in a specially funded apprenticeship program, a building mentor will be assigned in place of an alumni mentor. This mentor, an experienced educator within your school, will provide personalized guidance and professional insight to support you as you progress through your coursework and educational journey.

Additional Supports

- **Technology:** Each student will receive a Midland University-issued iPad for use throughout their coursework, paid for by the Grow Our Own program.
- **Professional Learning Opportunities:** Regularly scheduled sessions designed to support your growth and development within the program.
- **Student Teaching Support:** Access to a dedicated district liaison/facilitator who provides ongoing feedback and guidance during your classroom experience.
- **Career Preparation:** Mock interviews with district administrators to help you prepare and practice for teaching interviews at the conclusion of the program.
- **Wellness & Encouragement:** Semester snack packs delivered to your school building, offering healthy and fun options to stay energized during your busy schedule.
- **Celebration & Employment:** Upon successful completion of the program, a formal signing day is held to receive your offer of employment with Westside Community Schools.

"Westside Community Schools provided full support by taking care of my class schedules, books, and tuition, which allows me to stay fully focused on both my schoolwork and my position at Westside."

Cecilia Cudney, Grow Our Own Cohort 5 Participant

Our Process

The Grow Our Own EA to Teacher Ladder Program isn't just a certification program; it's a chance to build on the relationships and experience you've already cultivated within your community. By applying, you're not only taking a powerful step forward in your career, but you're also making a commitment to the children and community you serve, ensuring they have a teacher who understands their unique needs and is deeply invested in their success.

1 Work at Westside as an Educational Assistant

Begin or continue your work at Westside as an Educational Assistant (EA).

2 Submit Your Application for the Program

All EA's will receive an email during application window that includes a link to the application. Submit your application! If you have undergraduate credits earned previously, you will be asked to request a transcript of coursework for review.

3 Receive Status of Application

After submitting your application, you will be notified of your acceptance status. If accepted, you'll begin coursework with Midland University (either in person or online), while simultaneously working and being paid as an EA.

4 Complete Your Program

Successfully complete the program, receive your degree and certification, and apply for a teaching position with Westside Community Schools.

5 Become a Westside Teacher!

Upon successful completion of the program, Westside will extend an offer of employment to you and you will join an amazing team of teachers striving for community, innovation and excellence.



Raydell Cordell, III
6th grade teacher,
Loveland Elementary School

GROW OUR OWN



EA TO TEACHER LADDER PROGRAM

Cohort 1 Graduation



Adventure awaits you on
The other side of your degree.



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EA TO TEACHER LADDER PROGRAM

Questions?

Contact the Office of
Human Resources:

hrdept@westside66.net
(402) 390-2100

Stay tuned to
your district
email for when
application
window will be
open!



WESTSIDE
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HUMAN RESOURCES



www.westside66.org



Chelsea Hinegardner
Rockbrook Elementary Teacher,
Grow Our Own Cohort 2 Graduate



Shelly Sip
Westbrook Elementary Teacher,
Grow Our Own Cohort 2 Graduate