

I am WAGES[®]

Ellen Devenny

Determined. Dedicated. Committed. Those are just a few words that describe Child Care WAGES[®] participant, Ellen Devenny. Ellen works as an assistant teacher at a five-star private NC Pre-K center in Gaston County, and just graduated in May 2019 with an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education with a 4.0 GPA. She walked across the stage at age 62.



Photo credit: Gaston College

"I would not have been able to have done this without the support of programs like T.E.A.C.H. and WAGES. Because of my education, I feel more confident as a teacher."

— Ellen Devenny

Ellen was 50 years old when she started work on her degree. She said, "It has taken me a long time, but I remained determined to see it through to completion. I would not have been able to have done this without the support of programs like T.E.A.C.H. and WAGES. Because of my education, I feel more confident as a teacher."

Ellen's passion for her career and the children in her care is clear. "My favorite thing about working with young children is... everything! It is rewarding to see how they grow and learn new things during the school year. I love to see the child that struggled with feelings of insecurity walk away at the end of the year full of confidence. I love seeing children with special needs accomplish things that other children take for granted. I love working with children from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, and learning from each. This year, we have families representing China, Pakistan, Jordan, India, Columbia and Mexico. How can I not love working with young children?"

Fortunately for the children in her center, Ellen plans to remain in the field for as long as she can. "I began working with children in 1974, and that desire to continue has remained strong."

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