

Freshman Interview with Taylor Fields

1. I am Taylor Fields, freshman, and my major is Elementary Education, my minor is Special Education, and my concentration is Psychology.

2. When I first came to Western for Open House, I loved everything about it. The campus was beautiful, the people were friendly, and I liked the location (I'm from Asheville, so my home is about an hour and fifteen minutes away—which I feel is the perfect distance). I knew they had a great education program, but it was meeting Jackie and the other Teaching Fellows that really sold me! Everyone was so amazing, and I could tell that I would really love the TF Program. Western was my first choice so I'm really glad that I got it!

3. As a university, I think Western is the perfect size. I have been to other schools and they all felt either too big or too small but I think Western has just the right amount of students. The location really sets it apart because most campuses aren't nearly as beautiful. This region really offers a lot of activities for people to participate in, as well as the school itself. Students and staff are friendly and welcoming. I also think we have amazing education programs and professors who push learning to the next level. There are so many educational opportunities like internships and study abroad.

4. Teaching Fellows has made a huge difference in my college career so far because I am already part of a group. It was so nice to be able to come to WCU the very first day and know that I had friends who cared about me. Also, it has gotten me involved

on campus. I attend the Leadership meetings, I have gone to socials, I helped out with Homecoming, I went to the Etiquette Dinner, I have done some community service, and I will be giving campus tours and attending the lesson at Fairview Elementary.

5. Seminar has been very helpful, and I feel like it gives the Teaching Fellows a head start which is very nice! I have loved and enjoyed every seminar, but my favorite was when the State Teacher of the Year, James Bell, came to speak. I loved talking to him and getting to know him because he is such an interesting man with a really powerful and inspiring message. Most people never get that kind of opportunity!

6. So far, my favorite activity has been Dollywood. It was so much fun, and it was nice to be able to have a chance to meet everyone while getting your mind off your new move to college!

7. I have loved meeting so many new people from so many different places and backgrounds. In high school you go to school with the same people you grew up with, and this is the first opportunity I have had to interact with so many new people. Everyone is so friendly and nice, and I have made a lot of wonderful friends!

8. My least favorite experience in college has been Dodson Cafeteria. The food is not that great, and they have the same thing every day. It has been the only thing that makes me miss home!

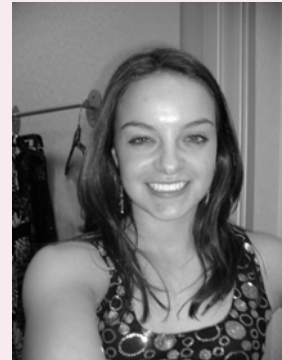
9. I don't think I would want to change anything except maybe

the food situation because like I said, Dodson isn't that great!

10. During my junior and senior year I worked in my high school's daycare center with the pre-schoolers. It was my first opportunity to work with children in a school setting. Although I knew I wanted to teach and I had no doubts about it, having the opportunity to teach the children something new and watching them learn and grow told me that teaching was what I was supposed to do. It just gave more meaning to my life!

11. All of the Teaching Fellows have done a great job at welcoming the freshmen to the campus and the program! I have to brag on my sophomore mentor, Megan Whitaker, because she has made my college experience so much better! She made me feel so welcome, and she really helped ease all of my fears and worries, as well as answer all of my questions! We started out as mentor and mentee, but we are now the best of friends and we hang out almost every day.

12. I feel like everyone has done an amazing job at welcoming us, and I really feel like they couldn't have done anything else...it was great!



Freshman TF Taylor Fields

*"I now have a
second mom —
Jackie!"*

-Taylor Fields



**Teaching Fellows Director
Jacqueline Smith**

Legislators' School w/ Brandon Meeks

I was a Residence Life Counselor, and I was responsible for 13 middle and high school boys during each session. I took them to breakfast and dinner, took them to rec time, and did nightly activities. The highlight was that this served as my Junior Enrichment experience,

and I was paid \$1,400 for the three weeks I was up here. For more information about Legislators' School go to the Office of Rural Education's website:

<http://ore.wcu.edu/>.

-Brandon Meeks



Inside Story Headline

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December

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"My most rewarding experience was when kids

started understanding why we did certain things and made the connections between the activity and real-life." -Amber Gilliam

Legislators' School w/ Katie Honeycutt

I was an assistant trainer and I worked with Amber Gilliam. I was paid the same as Brandon Meeks because this was my first year. Hopefully in 2008 I will be a trainer like Amber. I loved it, and I would recommend it to anyone—just don't take my spot! Ha-Ha!

-Katie Honeycutt



TEACHING FELLOWS



WESTERN CAROLINA TEACHING FELLOWS

Have a story, picture or suggestions for the Chalkboard? Call or Email

Phone: 828-227-4077

E-mail: ec50271@wcu.edu*

*please include Teaching Fellows in Subject

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY TEACHING FELLOWS

Check out the scholarship website at:

www.teachingfellows.org

The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship is a state-funded scholarship awarded after a rigorous selection process including writing samples and local and regional interviews. This scholarship is awarded to 500 deserving individuals each year. This scholarship may be used at any of 18 campuses across the state. Once accepted into the Fellowship, students enter a program designed to help them excel both in college and in their own classrooms. All Teaching Fellows are required to maintain a GPA of 2.5 (2.25 as a Freshman) and be in good academic standing to remain in the program. All Fellows must also complete Summer Enrichment each year which is one of the ways that NC Teaching Fellows puts its students one step ahead.

Legislators' School w/ Amber Gilliam

I served as a trainer and taught the kids about leadership and how to strengthen their leadership skills. I worked with them during the day, from 9:00-4:00, and also took them to lunch. The curriculum for Legislators' School is all about leadership building, and it includes some really cool things. I had about 25 kids in each session, and Katie Honeycutt was my partner in crime (she was an assistant trainer, even though we both did the work load). This was my second year working in Legislators' School. Last year I was a counselor

just like Brandon Meeks. It took place in June, and each session was one week long, and the staff has one week of training. Besides bonding with the kids, my most rewarding experience was when the kids started understanding and connecting why we did certain things, and then they made the connection between the activities and real-life. I still talk to a lot of them....and I miss them terribly. My worst moment was probably during the middle school session. The kids revolted and made a new rule saying I could not change the

rules. They did not like the activity we were doing because it involved *almost* lying to the students. However, in the end they still liked me and it was okay. Pictures are on my Facebook under Legislators' School, each separated out from each session. We hope to soon receive a CD with pictures from the camp. Also, the full name of Legislators' School is actually *Legislators' School for Youth Leadership Development*—in short, LSYLD. Finally, I was paid \$2,500 for working as a trainer.

-Amber Gilliam