



Cohort 3

Malaya Beasley

Elementary Education



Onslow County | Swansboro High School

"I am committed to teaching in eastern North Carolina because I want to help lead the younger generation of kids where I've grown up. I know, from experience, the life changing effect a teacher can have on their students. Kids, from a young age, are so impressionable. It is easy to either show them why they should love school or make them so eager to finish and leave and never look back. I want to set them on a path of success. Make them proud of where they came from and proud to contribute to their community."

Braxton Cumbo

Technology, Engineering, and Design Education



Craven County | Havenlock High School

"What inspires me to become an educator is the community where I come from. I live in a place where a lot of people have jobs doing physical labor because not many people have the support or resources to do careers they want to pursue. I'm passionate about returning to Eastern North Carolina because this is the area where I was raised, and I want to give back to my community."

- Teacher Cadet
- NC State MSEN

Katie Dodson

Elementary Education



Sampson County | Southern Wayne High School

"My elementary teachers inspired me to become an educator. I had a great learning experience throughout school and loved the bond they created in their classroom. I want to return to eastern North Carolina and make an impact on other small town kids like my teachers had on me."

- LIFT 2023 Participant
- Future Teachers of America Club President
- Teacher Cadet



Cohort 3

Jazmin Garcia

Middle Grades Language Arts & Social Studies



Johnston County | Johnston County Early College Academy

"I have always loved helping others, giving back to the community, and enjoy being in a learning environment - and what better way to do all three than to be an educator! In addition, I have experienced my fair share of unmotivated teachers, and I strive to be the opposite of that and help students grow and learn. I have lived in North Carolina my whole life, and specifically teachers in eastern North Carolina have helped me grow in many aspects of my life. I am excited to return and dedicate myself to the area that made me who I am today."

Eve Jones

Elementary Education



Dare County | Manteo High School

"Educators have done much more than teach me curriculum. They have taught me how to be kind, how to have self confidence, and most importantly, how to love learning. These qualities have helped shape me into the individual I am today. I want to return to Eastern North Carolina for these reasons. I want to be the teacher who not only teaches academics to their students, but also teaches students how to become good citizens and good people."

Brooklynn Koonce

Elementary Education



Onslow County | Jacksonville High School

"My whole family is in the education field and has done so much in my home town to support and improve the school system. I want to add to my family legacy and create my own impact on my community. I come from a military town which has had its challenges when it comes to education. However, I want to be the change I wish to see."

- LIFT 2023
- Future Teachers of Onslow County President



Cohort 3

Andrea Loera Valdez Elementary Education



Edgecombe County | Edgecombe Early College High School

"I love the act of teaching young minds to ensure they are successful and content in their lives with what they have learned. Becoming an educator means I will work to ensure students feel their school is passionate on supporting them even when they come from different backgrounds. Being able to return to Eastern North Carolina to teach allows me to create the positive changes I want to see and impact the lives of students to guarantee they can grow and learn to their fullest potential."

- LIFT 2022
- Scholar Teachers

Haleigh Meliti Elementary Education



Onslow County | Jacksonville High School

"To me, being a transformational teacher means guiding today's youth toward success in their education and throughout their lives. Transformational teacher leaders are caring and passionate about their job, community, and the lives of the children that they are enriching. I am committed to teaching in Eastern North Carolina because I wish to give back to my community which has given me so much. Eastern North Carolina has been my home for four years, and I love it here."

Nyla Polk Elementary Education



Sampson County | Hobbton High School

"I have always wanted to become a teacher because all of my teachers over the years has inspired. Watching my teachers provide for us with very few materials motivated me to learn what I can and go back to help!"

- Early Childhood Education 1 & 2



Cohort 3

Lyla Sherwood

Elementary Education

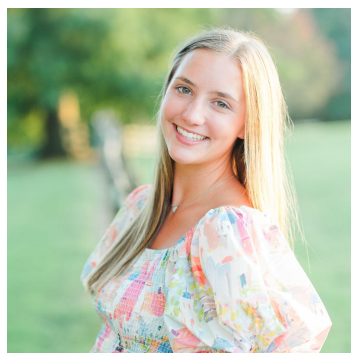


New Hanover County | E A Laney High School

"I am inspired to be a teacher because I know that my impact can make a life long impression on a student. I want to make a difference by encouraging and loving kids so that they feel special and capable of doing big things with their lives despite any obstacles they face. I am passionate about returning to Eastern NC because I was born and raised there, and most of my relatives are from this area. I want to return so that I can help make a difference and give back to the same community that inspired me growing up."

Phoebe Spradley

Mathematics Education (Middle Grades)



Nash County | Faith Christian School

"I have a passion for eastern North Carolina since it is my home, and I want to see better outcomes and a brighter future for my area. I have experience in getting to know and serve the children in my community and I know I would enjoy working with children as a career. Knowing that I can be a part of helping to shape eastern North Carolina not only for a better future for my family but also for the individuals I have encountered and have yet to impact is something worth working towards."

Ka'Viya White

Mathematics Education (High School)



Edgecombe County | Edgecombe Early College High School

"I am inspired to become an educator because there are students who need someone like me - someone who is willing to help, teach, and be there for them no matter the circumstances. I am passionate about returning to eastern North Carolina because I would like to give back to my community."