

Teach for America

Recent graduate will teach in Florida to end educational inequity across nation

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Transcript

[G. Waddups] I started here at IUPUI in 2004 as a University College student, undeclared major. I ended up majoring in psychology after I took my introductory psychology class. I got really excited about it so I ended up studying that. I graduated this past May 2008 with a B.S. in Psychology.

As I mentioned before I took that Psychology B104 class and really liked psychology. It actually has a structured learning assistance mentoring component with it. My mentor recommended me to be a mentor, so I went through the interview process. I believe in the spring of 2005 I started here as a Psychology B104 academic mentor, and I did that all the way up until last semester.

I was accepted into the Teach for America Program this past fall in November. Prior to being accepted, I went through a pretty rigorous interview process - essay types of things I had to write. I was very honored to be accepted into the program.

I don't actually start until fall of this year. I'll be teaching in Jacksonville, Florida. I'm not quite sure what grade yet, but it will more than likely be K-6, one of those grades. I'll be going through training prior to. Since I wasn't an education major, there are a lot of things that I'll need to pick up on. Lesson planning and things like that. I will be stationed at Georgia Tech University in Atlanta for five weeks. There I'll be doing pretty much around the clock workshops, actually doing some teaching in some of the local summer schools in Atlanta Public Schools.

I think that Teach for America, it's going to make a huge impact on my life. I know it's going to be one of the hardest things I've ever done, and I'm looking forward to the challenge. I don't know if I will want to make education my career. It is a two year commitment. I will commit to teach for two years.

I plan on becoming certified as a teacher during that time. I do want to, one of my passions is research, I actually work in the social psychology lab over in SL right now with Dr. Ashburn-Nardo.

Research and social psychology and prejudice are very interesting to me. So I think that if there is a way I can combine my passions of education and researching stereotypes and prejudice and things like that, I will be able to, hopefully, make a difference, I guess, on a larger scale.