

Reflections from the CEO

As we close Fiscal Year 2026 and prepare to welcome FY27, I am filled with gratitude, hope, and excitement for what lies ahead. This past year has reminded me that transformation is measured by the lives that are changed, the relationships that are strengthened, and the opportunities created when a community comes together with a shared purpose.

Throughout this edition, you will discover stories of perseverance, recovery, education, employment, and achievement that reflect the heart of TEECH's mission. Every story represents more than an individual accomplishment it reflects the strength of a community that believes in hope, invests in opportunity, and celebrates every step forward.

At TEECH, we remain committed to advancing recovery support, behavioral health, workforce development, education, and collaborative partnerships that strengthen individuals, families, and communities. On behalf of the TEECH staff and Board of Directors, thank you for believing in our mission and for walking alongside us. We invite you to celebrate these stories with us and continue building a future where hope is restored, opportunities are created, and every individual has the chance to reach their fullest potential.

With gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Karen White, CADC, NCRS, RCT, CAMS II

Chief Executive Officer

Transforming, Educating & Empowering Children and Humanity (TEECH)



FY27: Transforming Lives, Celebrating Achievement, and Strengthening Communities

Our commitment is to address substance misuse and mental health by expanding access to recovery support, promoting whole-person wellness, and strengthening community partnerships that empower participants to build recovery capital and achieve long-term wellness. Through person-centered, individualized, strengths-based, trauma-informed, and recovery-oriented approaches, combined with behavioral health services, education, advocacy, workforce development, coordinated systems of care, and evidence-informed practices, we assist participants and families in achieving their goals, overcoming barriers, and improving their quality of life. These efforts reflect TEECH's mission of Transforming, Educating, and Empowering Children and Humanity, advance our vision of healthier communities, and support our strategic goals of strengthening recovery, improving behavioral health outcomes, and promoting self-sufficiency.

As we enter Fiscal Year 2027, we remain focused on expanding access to recovery support, behavioral health resources, workforce development, and community-based services that strengthen individuals, families, and neighborhoods. Our priorities include enhancing coordinated systems of care, increasing community engagement, advancing initiatives that mitigate overdose risk, and ensuring participants have access to the resources and supports necessary to achieve lasting wellness. Every initiative is designed to meet participants where they are by providing individualized, person-centered services that recognize every recovery journey is unique.

A significant milestone this year is our participation in the Recovery Management Checkups–Specialized Services (RMC–SS) initiative. In partnership with Chestnut Health Systems, Haymarket Center, Community Outreach Intervention Projects (COIP) at the University of Illinois Chicago, and the Cook County Sheriff's Office, we are implementing an evidence-based model that recognizes recovery as an ongoing journey requiring continued support and engagement. Recovery Management Checkups provide structured, ongoing follow-up with participants after treatment or community reentry to assess recovery progress, identify emerging needs, and reconnect participants with recovery support, behavioral health services, and community resources when appropriate. This proactive approach identifies challenges early, reduces gaps in care, strengthens continuity of support, and improves long-term recovery outcomes before barriers become crises. By participating in this collaborative initiative, we are advancing evidence-based practices that strengthen coordinated systems of care, improve participant engagement, promote sustained recovery, and enhance the overall health and well-being of the communities we serve.

Collaboration remains central to our work. By partnering with behavioral health providers, healthcare organizations, educational institutions, employers, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, and other strategic partners, we continue advancing coordinated systems of care that improve access to housing, behavioral health resources, workforce development, family reunification supports, and other essential services. Together, these partnerships strengthen recovery capital, reduce barriers, and create pathways that empower participants, support families, and promote long-term wellness throughout the communities we serve.

FY26 By the Numbers

97 Participants Served

86 Successful Program Completions

66 Employment Referrals

32 Participants Still Employed with Dakota

1,500+ Community Members Reached

15 Recovery Certified Congregations

25+ Community Events

20+ New Partnerships

Recovery Doesn't End at Program Completion

One of TEECH's greatest strengths has always been our commitment to maintaining meaningful relationships with participants long after they complete a program or reach a milestone in their recovery journey. We understand that recovery is not a destination it is a lifelong process strengthened through encouragement, accountability, and connection. Long before our participation in the Recovery Management Checkups–Specialized Services (RMC–SS) initiative, our team was already conducting follow-up calls, maintaining regular contact, and reconnecting participants with recovery support, behavioral health services, and community resources as new needs emerged.

The Recovery Management Checkups initiative strengthens and formalizes this approach by providing an evidence-based framework for ongoing follow-up. Through regular recovery checkups and individualized recovery management, participants have opportunities to discuss their progress, identify emerging needs, celebrate milestones, and reconnect with supports before challenges become barriers. This proactive approach reinforces our belief that sustained engagement contributes to stronger recovery outcomes, improved wellness, and long-term success.

Participant Reflection

The following email from Damian G., who has remained engaged with TEECH through ongoing follow-up, reflects the lasting impact of continued connection and demonstrates why maintaining meaningful relationships beyond program completion is an essential part of long-term recovery.

Good morning, Mr. Frederick,

I was returning your check-in call and wanted to let you know that I'm hanging in there. I just completed my first week of classes 10 of the required 110 classroom hours and it has already been a great learning experience.

I also wanted to tell you something that has stayed with me since my time at TEECH. You once told me, "I have a feeling you'll be on the other side of this desk someday." Well, that day is getting closer. My internship is expected to begin at the end of August, so I'll soon be sitting on the other side of the desk.

I truly appreciate the conversations we had while I was at TEECH, as well as the continued support and follow-up afterward. They meant more than you probably realized.

I also wanted to let you know that I was accepted into the CRSS Success Program. I never gave up, and I wanted to share this milestone with you. I've attached my acceptance letter.

Thank you again for believing in me.

Damian's story reminds us that recovery is strengthened through relationships that continue long after formal services have ended. His journey demonstrates the value of consistent follow-up, encouragement, and connection principles that are at the heart of TEECH's approach.

Recovery Creates Opportunity

At TEECH, we recognize that recovery extends beyond addressing substance misuse and mental health. Lasting recovery also includes achieving financial stability, restoring independence, strengthening families, and creating opportunities for long-term success. Employment is often one of the most significant milestones in that journey, providing purpose, stability, confidence, and hope for the future.

Our commitment to participants does not end when employment begins. Through continued engagement and follow-up, we celebrate accomplishments, encourage career growth, and remain available as a trusted source of support throughout each participant's recovery journey. This ongoing connection reflects the same philosophy recognizing that long-term recovery is strengthened through consistent engagement, meaningful relationships, and timely support.

Dakota Integrated Staffing, one of TEECH's longest-standing workforce partners, recently shared that TEECH participants have the strongest long-term employment retention within their organization. Today, 32 participants referred through TEECH remain actively employed at Dakota, with lengths of service ranging from one week to more than ten years. Many have advanced into leadership and supervisory positions, while others have continued their career progression by securing employment with Ford Motor Company, Dakota's parent company. These achievements demonstrate that recovery, opportunity, and meaningful employment create lasting change while opening doors to sustainable careers and economic mobility.

Each of these men and women entered the workforce after transitioning from incarceration or completing treatment. Their accomplishments reflect determination, resilience, and a willingness to embrace new opportunities. They also demonstrate the value of person-centered support, individualized services, workforce development, strong employer partnerships, and continued engagement throughout the recovery journey. Together, these successes reinforce that recovery is not only about improving health and wellness—it is also about building stable careers, achieving financial independence, strengthening families, and creating brighter futures.

As we move through FY27, we remain committed to strengthening partnerships, advancing innovative solutions, and expanding opportunities that empower participants and families. Together with our partners, we will continue building healthier, more resilient communities through sustainable systems of support that create lasting, measurable impact while advancing TEECH's mission, vision, and commitment to transforming lives through recovery, behavioral health, education, and opportunity.



Celebrating Our June Graduates
Honoring Achievement, Perseverance, and New Beginnings

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Honoring Achievement, Perseverance, and New Beginnings

At TEECH, every graduation represents more than the completion of a program it marks a significant milestone in a journey of growth, resilience, and new opportunity. Whether completing Recovery Support Services, advancing through Workforce Development, earning an educational credential, or reaching another important life achievement, every milestone reflects the power of determination, support, and the belief that transformation is possible.

This month, we proudly recognize participants who successfully completed TEECH's Recovery Support Services (RSS) and Workforce Development Programs. Throughout their participation, they fulfilled all parole board requirements while engaging in individualized recovery support, employment coaching, workforce readiness training, cognitive and behavioral skill development, and life skills education. They worked to strengthen healthy decision-making, increase personal accountability, build recovery capital, and develop the knowledge and skills needed to support long-term recovery, stable employment, financial independence, and successful reintegration into their families and communities.

These accomplishments reflect the broader mission of TEECH to empower individuals to overcome barriers, build on their strengths, and create meaningful opportunities for lasting success. Through person-centered, individualized services, education, workforce development, behavioral health support, and community partnerships, we assist participants in building healthier lives, strengthening families, and contributing to safer, more resilient communities. As participants achieve greater stability and self-sufficiency, they are better positioned to reduce future justice-system involvement, strengthen their recovery, and create positive change for themselves and those around them.

Congratulations to our June graduates! Your achievements represent more than personal success—they reflect hope, resilience, and the promise of new beginnings. We celebrate all that you have accomplished and look forward to the many ways you will continue to grow, lead, and inspire others.



TimothyA.



Donte H.



Joshua P.



Jacob S.



Celebrating the Class of 2026

Community Graduate Spotlights

Success takes many forms, and every accomplishment deserves to be recognized. As graduation season ends, TEECH is proud to celebrate members of our community who have reached important educational milestones through dedication, perseverance, and hard work.

Whether earning a high school diploma, completing a college degree, receiving a professional certification, or finishing a specialized training program, each graduate represents the promise of a brighter future. Their achievements inspire others, strengthen our communities, and demonstrate the power of education, determination, and opportunity.

This month, we are honored to recognize these outstanding graduates and congratulate them on their accomplishments. We celebrate not only the degrees and certificates they have earned, but also the commitment, resilience, and vision they have demonstrated along the way. Congratulations to each graduate—we wish you continued success as you pursue your next chapter.



Today, we honor their accomplishments. Today, we uplift their stories. Today, we celebrate the Class of 2026 — from the smallest scholars to the newest professionals.

Graduate Spotlights

MaKenzie – Headed to Kindergarten

McKenzie's transition from preschool to kindergarten marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter filled with learning, growth, and endless possibilities. Her curiosity, enthusiasm, and bright spirit have prepared her for this important milestone, where new friendships, exciting discoveries, and a lifelong love of learning await. This achievement is more than moving to a new classroom it is the first step in a journey filled with opportunity and promise.



Khloe – Headed to High School

Khloe's transition into high school marks a defining moment in her journey — a step into a new world of opportunity, growth, and self-discovery. High school is where potential begins to take shape, where talents emerge, and where young people start to understand the power of their own voice. Khloe enters this next chapter with promise, curiosity, and the determination to build a future that reflects his strengths and dreams. Her willingness to keep moving forward, to learn, and to rise to new challenges speaks to a young woman who is ready for what lies ahead. This milestone is more than a grade level change it is the beginning of a path filled with possibility. Khloe is not just starting high school; he is stepping into his future with confidence and purpose.



Te'lla – Accepted into the CNA Program

Te'lla's acceptance into the CNA program is a powerful reflection of her heart for service and her commitment to caring for others. Choosing a path in healthcare requires courage, compassion, and a willingness to show up for people in their most vulnerable moments — and Te'lla embodies all these qualities with grace. Her journey speaks to a young woman who leads with empathy, learns with purpose, and steps forward with determination. This milestone is not just an academic achievement; it is the beginning of a calling. Te'lla is preparing to enter a field where her presence will bring comfort, her skills will bring healing, and her dedication will make a lasting impact on every life she touches. Te'lla isn't simply entering a program she is stepping into her purpose.



Donovan – Accepted to Ball State University

Donovan's acceptance to Ball State University marks more than the start of his college journey it reflects his vision, discipline, and unwavering belief in what's possible. He has shown the courage to set ambitious goals and the determination to pursue them with focus and heart. This milestone is a testament to his leadership, his resilience, and the foundation he has built through hard work and perseverance. As he steps into this next chapter, Donovan carries with him the strength of his community, the support of those who believe in him, and the promise of a future he is already shaping with purpose. Donovan isn't just preparing for college he's preparing to make an impact.



Zaccheus – Accepted at Illinois State University

Zaccheus's acceptance to Illinois State University reflects his dedication, perseverance, and commitment to pursuing his goals through education. His willingness to challenge himself, remain focused, and continue striving for excellence has opened the door to an exciting new chapter filled with opportunity and growth. This achievement represents more than admission to a university—it is the result of years of hard work, determination, and a belief that education creates pathways to a brighter future. As Zaccheus begins this next phase of his journey, he carries with him the encouragement of those who have supported him and the confidence to pursue his dreams with purpose. We celebrate this remarkable accomplishment and look forward to the positive impact he will make as he continues to learn, grow, and lead.



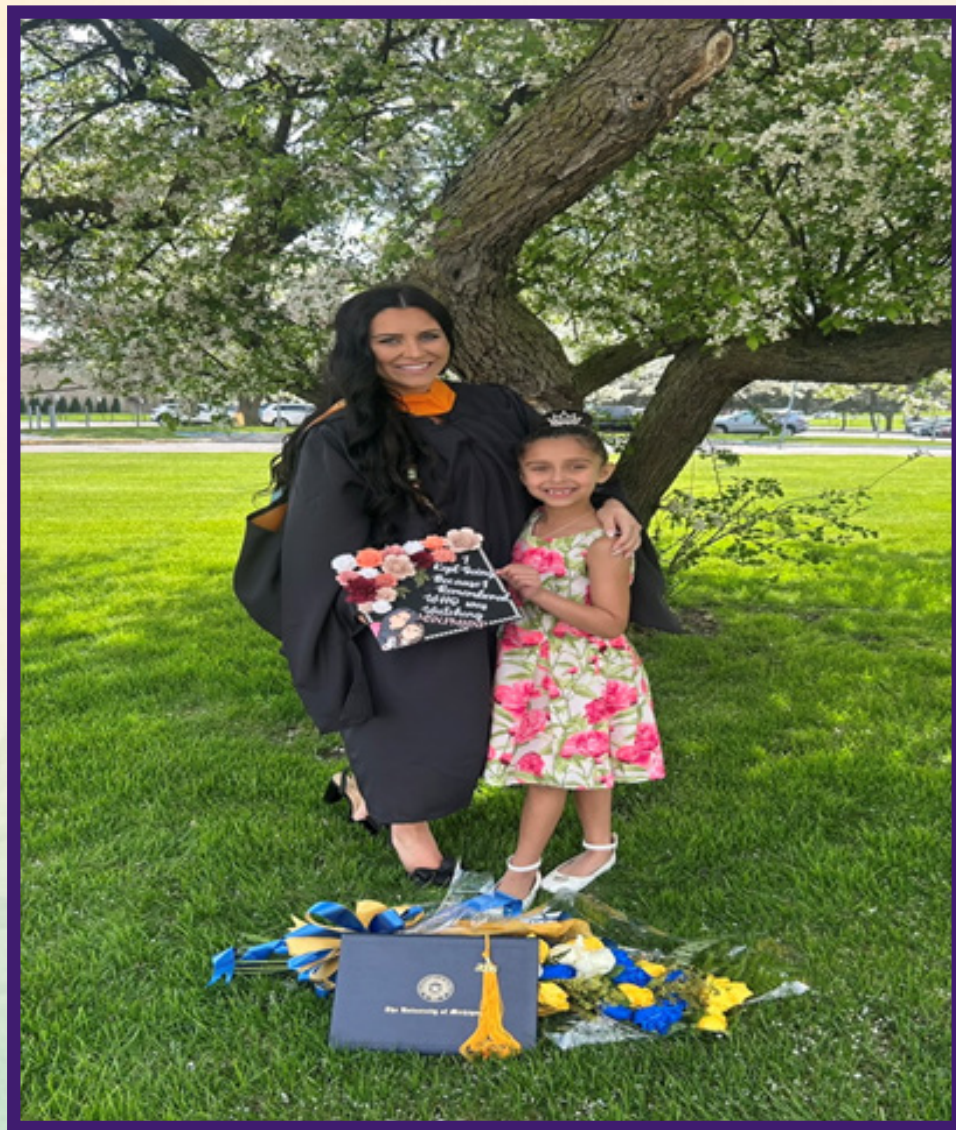
Ken – Associate's Degree in Applied Science & Mental Health

Ken's accomplishment in earning his Associate's Degree in Applied Science and Mental Health reflects far more than academic success it represents his commitment to healing, advocacy, and strengthening the emotional well being of those around him. His journey is rooted in purpose: a desire to uplift others, to listen deeply, and to be a source of stability and support in a world that needs more compassion. This milestone stands as a testament to Ken's resilience, discipline, and unwavering dedication to personal and professional growth. He has chosen a path that requires empathy, patience, and courage qualities he demonstrates with quiet strength and intentionality. As Ken steps forward into the next chapter of his work, he carries with him the power to change lives, build healthier communities, and create spaces where people feel seen, valued, and understood. Ken's achievement is not just a degree. It is a promise — to serve, to uplift, and to make a meaningful impact wherever his journey leads.



Kayli, MSN – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Kayli's achievement in earning her Master of Science in Nursing and becoming a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner stands as a remarkable testament to her strength, compassion, and unwavering commitment to healing. Mental health care is one of the most demanding and essential fields in our community and stepping into this work requires not only clinical excellence, but a heart capable of holding the stories, struggles, and hopes of others. Kayli embodies that calling with grace. Her journey reflects years of discipline, sacrifice, and a deep desire to serve. She has chosen a path where her presence brings comfort, her expertise brings clarity, and her compassion brings restoration. As a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Kayli is positioned to change lives — to advocate, to support, and to help individuals reclaim their sense of self and possibility. This milestone is more than a degree. It is a declaration of purpose. Kayli has stepped into a profession where her gifts will make a lasting impact, and her dedication will continue to uplift the well being of every person she serves



As FY26 Comes to a Close...

As Fiscal Year 2026 ends, we pause with grateful hearts to reflect on a year defined by progress, perseverance, partnership, and possibility. Every story shared throughout this year represents more than an individual achievement—it reflects the strength of a community that believes in hope, invests in opportunity, and celebrates every step forward.

Whether beginning kindergarten, earning a degree, advancing in a career, maintaining recovery, or reaching a personal milestone, every success reminds us that transformation happens when individuals are supported, encouraged, and given the opportunity to thrive. These moments inspire us to continue building pathways that strengthen lives, families, and communities for generations to come.

As we welcome FY27, we do so with optimism, purpose, and an unwavering commitment to continuing this important work. We are grateful to every participant, family member, partner, employer, educator, volunteer, supporter, and friend who has walked alongside us. Your belief in our mission makes this work possible, and together we will continue creating opportunities that leave a lasting impact.

Thank you for being part of the TEECH family. We wish you a safe, healthy, and inspiring summer, and we look forward to sharing another year of hope, achievement, and transformation.

Together, we are building more than programs—we are building futures.

