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Brieanne Hash, a Radford University graduate student, was named the first receiver of the Donna Dunn Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship was created last year as a memorial for Donna Dunn, an employee of the College of Education and Human Development that passed away in May 2015. The scholarship is for students that need financial help within the CEHD.

Hash, who is originally from Independence, Virginia, is scheduled to graduate in May with a master's degree in special education. Last year, she received her bachelor's degree in elementary education pre-k to 6.

She wants to teach elementary education, preferably in the New River Valley. She is currently applying to all the school systems in the area with the hope of finding a job after graduation.

"I really like to see progress in kids. I like to help them move past something that they didn't think they could grasp or understand and become more independent in their skills," Hash said about why she chose education. "I think seeing kids light up when they realize that they can do something that they didn't think they can do is really awesome and I just want to keep doing that forever."

Dunn was known by everyone that knew her on campus as a kind person, always willing to help students and the community. She served as the advising coordinator in the Center for Advising and Licensure of the CEHD for 28 years.

The process of receiving the scholarship, according to Hash, started when she applied for the Hattie M. Strong Scholarship just for education students. The Donna Dunn Scholarship picked from that application pool without advertising.

"They just called me and asked if I was Brieanne Hash and said they had a scholarship for me," Hash said.

With trying to balance student teaching and taking four classes here, she does not have time to

take a part time job.

Hash says that this scholarship will help her pay for what school she has already taken. After switching from elementary education to special education, she lost some of the scholarships she had originally since they were only for elementary education. Because of this, she has had to pay more than she anticipated and this scholarship will help with her finances.