

THE *Wisconsin* INDEPENDENT

Winter 2007-2008

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)

Vol. 39 No. 4

President's Letter

Thank you!

Dear Friends,

On November 1, I joined Governor Jim Doyle and First Lady Jessica Doyle at a news conference in Milwaukee, where it was announced that the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation (GLHEC) would be contributing \$40 million as seed money to the Wisconsin Covenant Foundation to build an endowment to fund financial aid for "Covenant Scholars." (See the adjacent article.) GLHEC CEO Richard George and Governor Doyle made several important points during this announcement.

1. All Wisconsin students are eligible. It was repeatedly emphasized that "Covenant Scholars" qualifying for financial aid may apply that aid at a campus either in the UW system, the technical college system, or "Wisconsin colleges and universities affiliated with the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities." This is a program for Wisconsin students attending a Wisconsin college or university.
2. These grants will have a means test. Although all eighth graders who meet the requirements will be eligible to participate in the

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Wisconsin Covenant Foundation created with \$40 million gift



Dick George (far left), CEO of Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation, presented \$40 million to Governor Jim Doyle (center) to create the Wisconsin Covenant Foundation.

On November 1, 2007, Governor Jim Doyle announced the establishment of the Wisconsin Covenant Foundation, along with an initial endowment of \$40 million funded by the Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation. The Great Lakes donation will be used to challenge Wisconsin businesses and philanthropists to make similar contributions to the Wisconsin Covenant and provide grants to Wisconsin Covenant Scholars to make college more affordable.

"The Wisconsin Covenant Foundation will ensure that our young people know that there is an opportunity for them to go to college," Governor Doyle said. More than 17,000 current ninth-grade students, representing all 72 Wisconsin counties, signed the Wisconsin Covenant pledge before the September 14, 2007 deadline. Current eighth-grade students can begin signing the pledge on March 31, 2008.

"We enthusiastically support the Wisconsin Covenant, which sends the critical message that every hard-working student can secure a place in higher education," said Richard D. George, President and Chief Executive Officer of Great Lakes. "As a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing educational access, particularly to low-income and first generation students, Great Lakes is pleased to build on the promise of this program by endowing the Wisconsin Covenant Foundation."

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St. Norbert forges nursing partnership



Bellin nursing student Evan Ecklund practiced a patient procedure under the watchful eye of Jill Harr, assistant professor of nursing, while Amanda Landwehr (far left) observed.

This semester marks a new academic partnership between St. Norbert College and Bellin College of Nursing. Students now have the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Bellin College of Nursing with a St. Norbert College liberal arts foundation and living experience.

“In an age of scarce resources and in a time when Wisconsin desperately needs more nurses, this is a marvelous win-win for Bellin College of Nursing and St. Norbert,” said St. Norbert College president William J. Hynes. “Collaborating together, we are able to combine the breadth of a liberal arts education with the professional expertise of nursing, creating ethical leaders and health professionals who can improve the life of our community.”

According to projections by the Department of Workforce Development, registered nurses are fifth among occupations with the highest average annual job openings in Wisconsin. Furthermore, Wisconsin hospitals are projected to face a 13 percent shortage of nurses by 2020.

Students are enrolled at both St. Norbert College and Bellin College of Nursing, taking their first full year of courses on the St. Norbert campus from both St. Norbert and Bellin faculty. Students will live on St. Norbert’s campus throughout their four-year experience, able to take advantage of everything the campus has to offer, including the leadership development opportunities of the St. Norbert residential and student life programs. Most labs are taught at Bellin Hospital, and clinicals occur at local nursing homes. Other nursing courses, sophomore through senior years, will be on the Bellin College of Nursing campus.

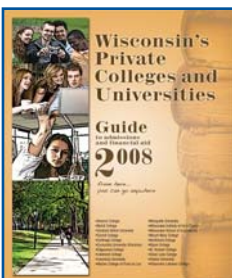
“The national nursing shortage provides a challenge and an opportunity for Bellin College of Nursing to expand these nursing educational opportunities for students who attend St. Norbert College,” said Jane Muhl, president/CEO of Bellin College of Nursing.

This partnership offers exceptional opportunities for nursing students:

- Study of human cadavers through St. Norbert College’s biology program — an advantage not available at the area’s leading state institutions.
- A supportive learning environment generated by a cohort of nursing students.
- A mixture of science and the liberal arts, ensuring graduates can problem solve, communicate effectively, and work successfully within teams.
- Leadership development and service opportunities.
- Hands-on clinical and lab experiences in local nursing homes and Bellin Hospital.
- Moral and ethical standards taught in a faith-based environment. ❖

Note: In order to highlight all twenty of Wisconsin’s private colleges and universities, The Wisconsin Independent follows a regular rotation featuring six or seven colleges in each quarterly issue. Each college or university appears in every third issue.

Do you need more copies of the WAICU **2008 Guide to Admissions and Financial Aid?** Call 1-800-4-DEGREE.



Commencements

Alverno College will hold commencement exercises on December 15; the student speaker will be **Amanda Haacker**.

Cardinal Stritch University’s graduation ceremony will be held December 15. The speaker will be **Dr. Michael Downey**, Cardinal’s Theologian for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and a professor of Systematic Theology and Spirituality at St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, California. Dr. Downey will also receive an honorary doctorate, as will **Maria Monreal-Cameron**, president & CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin.

Concordia University Wisconsin will hold graduation exercises on December 15. **John Stollenwerk**, chairman of Allen Edmond Shoes in Port Washington, will give the commencement address.

Edgewood College’s ceremony will be December 16, with **Melanie Ramey**, executive director of HOPE Wisconsin, as the speaker.

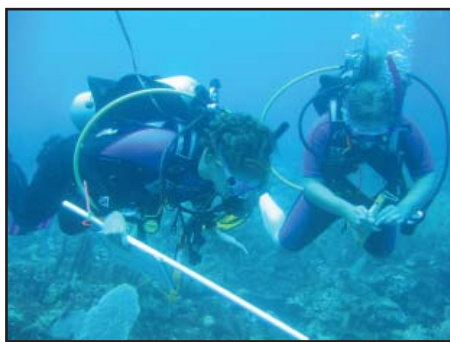
Marian College will hold graduation exercises on December 15. The speaker is State Representative **Amy Sue Vruwink**, a 1997 Marian graduate.

Marquette University will hold commencement on December 16. The **Rev. Bryan Massingale**, associate professor of theology at Marquette, will be the speaker.

Milwaukee School of Engineering held its ceremony on November 17. **Robert J. Hillis**, president and CEO of Direct Supply, Inc. spoke and received an honorary degree.

Viterbo University’s winter graduation is December 15 with **Robin Dale** as the student speaker.

Wisconsin Lutheran students conduct coral research in Grenada



WLC students Christina Heyer and Emily Laete collect data off the coast of Grenada.

The study of marine biology at Wisconsin Lutheran College offers students more than just a classroom and lab experience. Last May, eight Wisconsin Lutheran students, accompanied by their professors, Dr. Rob Balza and Dr. Bob Anderson, initiated a research project on the coral reef in Grenada.

In collaboration with Dr. Clare Morrall of St. Georges University, Grenada, they documented the diversity of organisms and the condition of the coral in Flamingo

Bay and other areas of Grenada's Marine Protected Area.

Before traveling to Grenada for their field experience, the students — seven biology majors and one art major — received classroom instruction on coral reef ecology in the spring '07 semester.

With their professors, they also went through several hours of SCUBA training — four hours of classroom instruction, twelve hours of skills development in the pool for confined-water SCUBA certification, and then eight hours of skills demonstration in open water in Grenada to obtain open-water SCUBA certification.

During the 14 days in Grenada, the research team completed 10 dives, during which they counted and identified fish and recorded digital video. A total of 46 fish species were identified, and the digital video recording provided good documentation of the conditions.

The trip constituted a win-win for participants. Through careful preparation and focus on the task, students were able to engage in meaningful research and learn a variety of new skills while at the same time experiencing a different culture.

Preliminary evaluation of data collected and videos and photos taken indicate that extensive algae growth may be inhibiting coral growth and development in the protected area. This data will be compiled in a report to Grenada's minister of fisheries.

Professor Anderson says that this first effort at biological monitoring in Grenada was very successful, and he plans to take another group of students in May 2008. Hands-on research, like this marine biology research project, are one of the benefits of attending a small, independent college like Wisconsin Lutheran. And if you ask the students, 14 days in tropical Grenada is a benefit, too. ❖

New director, fields, and facilities enhance Alverno's athletic program



Bradley Duckworth, Alverno College's new director of athletics and head basketball coach

Bradley Duckworth recently joined Alverno College as the new director of athletics and head basketball coach following a national search, and he couldn't be happier about it. "What a true honor it is to be able to represent such a fine institution as the director of athletics," Duckworth said, noting the

support he's received from his colleagues and players. "The tremendous dedication from staff and student-athletes to the advancement of our college and athletics is commendable," he said.

Alverno's president Mary Meehan is looking forward to the next phase of the college's athletics program, now in its seventh year of competitive play. "Athletics in collegiate America is very important for student engagement, retention, and the creation of a vibrant campus community," said Dr. Meehan. "We're excited about the future of Alverno's athletics program and we're proud of its progress. We have new facilities, lots of community support, and we're ready to take the program to that next level. Brad Duckworth's record, his background in women's NCAA athletics, and his approach to competitive athletics and its role in higher education made him a clear choice for Alverno." ❖

One of Duckworth's first special events since he joined Alverno has been the college's field dedication ceremony, which celebrated the creation of NCAA-regulation softball and soccer fields, which were a part of the campus beautification project funded by The Reiman Foundation.

"To have this type of facility will help put our college and our athletic department on the map," Duckworth said.

Duckworth is the former assistant women's basketball coach at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Previously, at the State University of New York at New Paltz, he coached the basketball team to the school's longest winning streak, two post-season bids, and the third best win total in school history. In softball, he led his players to their best finish in conference play and the longest winning streak in school history. ❖

Lawrence University encourages political engagement via new website



Lawrence University's election website encourages voters to think.

With a historic presidential election on the horizon, Lawrence University has launched a new website designed to help voters — especially college students — try to find which candidate's positions best match their own on a variety of important national issues. Called MyElectionDecision.org, the website is a project of Lawrence faculty and staff, in a partnership with researchers from the

University of California-Irvine.

Lawrence University president Jill Beck said the creation of the website was driven by the lack of political participation among many college students. "One of the founding traditions of a liberal arts college is the education and creation of good citizens," Dr. Beck said. "When statistics show that only a third of college-educated Americans follow public affairs regularly, and less than two-thirds vote in both national and local elections, it's clear we can do more in that regard."

The website uses questionnaires to assess the users' ratings on critical issues including Iraq, health care, immigration, the environment, and the economy. Users rate which issues are most important to them, take a blind test without knowing which candidate said what, evaluate which issue statements they support, and then find out which candidate most closely supports their views.

By considering the candidates' own statements on the issues, without regard to their appearance, personality, fundraising ability, or the news media's interpretation or bias, MyElectionDecision.org strips away many of the factors that have soured people on the political process.

The site is updated as candidates make new statements or change positions. The views of four Republicans (Giuliani, McCain, Romney, and Thompson) and four Democrats (Clinton, Edwards, Obama, and Richardson) are currently reflected on the site. After the primaries, the site will shift its focus to the two surviving candidates.

"It's my hope that Lawrence University and MyElectionDecision.org will contribute to political awareness, inspire debate on the issues, and create greater voter turnout at a time when civic participation has never been more important," said Dr. Beck. ❖

\$1.4 million grant helps Edgewood College expand vital program



Dr. Joe Schmiedicke, dean of Edgewood College's School of Education, says the impact of the grant will be felt across the state

Edgewood College recently announced one of the largest federal grants in the college's history: \$1.4 million from the U.S. Department of Education. The funds will enable Edgewood College to significantly expand its English Language Learning (ELL) training for teachers in at least eight south-central Wisconsin

school districts, including the Madison Metropolitan School District. The grant will directly affect the instructional impact of secondary school teachers across a wide area of the state, where many teachers face serious challenges educating increasingly language-diverse populations. College officials said a new ELL/Bilingual licensing program at Edgewood is meeting a critical need in Wisconsin right now, and the impact of the program will grow significantly as a result of this grant.

Dr. Joe Schmiedicke, dean of Edgewood's School of Education, says the grant will enhance the effectiveness of secondary school teachers in multiple districts. "With this funding, we are in a position to better serve our school systems facing the challenges of educating increasingly language-diverse populations," he said. "The college will be able to capitalize in a very meaningful way on the momentum

we've already created. Our new ELL/Bilingual licensing program is addressing a changing landscape Wisconsin, and that's important. But we'll see the impact of that program grow significantly as a result of this grant, and all of the state's students will be the ones who'll benefit." Dr. Schmiedicke added that developing a professional community that cuts across institutional boundaries is also an expected outcome of the expansion of the college's ELL training.

Administrators from the Madison Metropolitan School District, the Verona Area School District, the Waterloo School District, the Marshall Public Schools, the Sun Prairie Area School District, the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District, the Oregon Area School District, and the Sauk Prairie School District will coordinate with Edgewood College faculty and staff to further develop and implement the ELL program. ❖

Stritch's Sport Management degree offers career opportunities



Cardinal Stritch senior Lindsay Christensen lauds Stritch's Sport Management program

Lindsay Christensen has wanted to work in sports from the time she was a little girl. But her passion is baseball, and she knows that women have few opportunities to actually play.

So, when the 21-year-old from Oconto, Wisconsin, started at Cardinal Stritch University, she was eager to enroll in its Sport Management program, which is celebrating its five-year anniversary

this year and has become the third-largest major on campus. Now a senior, Christensen has had a three-month paid marketing/promotions internship with the Florida Collegiate Summer League, which brings together top collegiate players from around the nation to develop skills; has helped market a Women's National Basketball Association game in Milwaukee through an in-class service learning project; and is the current president of the Sport Management club.

"I'm so incredibly passionate about Sport Management," she said. "This program has put me in a position to get where I want to be." Her goal is to work in community relations for baseball, soccer, or lacrosse.

Eric Bollis, of Franklin, Wisconsin, graduated last December from the program and is now the athletic supervisor at the Milwaukee Athletic Club. While still in school, he did an internship with the Milwaukee Brewers,

working in community relations. He transferred to Stritch specifically because of the Sport Management program, the only one of its kind in the region.

"I enjoyed the program immensely," he said. "They covered all the bases. I took finance, business, and marketing classes, so I got a lot of basic knowledge."

Pat Clemens, a faculty member in the program, thinks the key to its success is its combination of a required 400-hour internship, academic service learning projects, and a 60-page research paper on a topic in the sports industry. Topics have included violence in sports, payment for college athletes, and how to finance sports arenas, among others. "And because the program is based on the business of sport, our students have a huge advantage in the workplace," he said.

"With our program and requirements, our students build a real résumé," he said, "and our graduates are working!" ❖

Lakeland welcomes international students to its global community



Students at Lakeland's English Language Institute enjoyed a Brewers baseball game at Miller Park last summer.

Once again this year, Lakeland College's summer English Language Institute hosted a number of international visitors.

A group of 23 students from Ansan College in South Korea studied English language and American culture for four weeks. Their English instruction was supplemented with a variety of other

activities intended to give students a deeper understanding of the life of Americans. These activities included trips to restaurants, visits to museums, and even shopping at local garage sales. In addition, the students enjoyed a wide variety of fun activities including whitewater rafting, a Milwaukee Brewers baseball game, and a day at Six Flags amusement park.

Lakeland's ELI also organized a Global Academic Professional Development program for seven professors from the East China Institute of Technology, Jiangxi Province, China. While at LC, the seven members worked with several members of Lakeland's faculty learning about and discussing issues related to pedagogy, curriculum, assessment, and cultural awareness in higher education. This academic exchange is expected to advance the sister schools' ongoing efforts to design an LC undergraduate program for delivery to ECIT students.

Lakeland is a truly global community, with 122 international students among its 958 full-time undergraduates this fall. Those students are from 24 different countries/regions, as Lakeland continues to offer one of the most diverse campuses in the Midwest. Lakeland's 2007 incoming class includes 59 international students from 16 different countries, even in the face of tougher federal requirements for international students.

Lakeland established a branch campus in Tokyo, Japan, in 1990. Students there work toward a two-year associate's degree that mirrors the general education curriculum at the Sheboygan campus.

Lakeland also has sister-school partnerships with Shanghai Finance University, Shanghai, China; Huate Vocational High School, Taiwan; Hessen University, Kassel, Germany; and the University of Reformada, Barranquilla, Colombia. ❖

OF INTEREST TO GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

Hispanic students face barriers

Hispanic students realize that going to college is important, and nearly all of them want to go on to postsecondary education — but fulfilling that dream seems out of reach for many. That’s according to a recent study titled “College Preparation 2007.” The study was conducted by the National Research Center for College and University Admissions (NRCCUA) at the behest of the Hispanic Heritage Fund.

The study reports that 98 percent of Hispanic high school students are interested in attending college, yet barely more than a quarter of Hispanic students are currently enrolled. At a symposium held last summer, Hispanic college students talked about the barriers they had to overcome to reach their goal. A panel titled “Voices: Hearing from Latino Students About College” featured six recipients of scholarships from the Hispanic College Fund, each stating that they would never have been able to attend college without extra help. Each cited difficulties such as family illness or disability and the lack of support from the wider community as contributors to the low numbers of Hispanics enrolling in postsecondary education.

Their concerns were echoed by speakers representing groups such as the Hispanic Heritage Fund, *Excellencia* in Education, and the Hispanic College Fund. All participants called on the federal government to support more programs encouraging college access for Hispanics so that their numbers could rise to the level of their peers in other ethnicities. Suggestions included more help with admissions applications and financial aid forms as well as grants and scholarships to underwrite college costs.

According to *Excelencia* in Education, although Latino undergraduates were similar in many ways to all undergraduates enrolled in 2003-2004, they were more likely to be first-generation students (49 percent), to be enrolled on a part-time basis (51 percent), and to have relatively low family incomes.

On the positive side, Latino representation in higher education continues to grow. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2004, Hispanic students represented about 11 percent of the total student enrollment in higher education (1.8 million), up from 6 percent in 1990 (782,400). The number of Latino undergraduates increased 130 percent nationally from 1990 to 2004. ❖

WAICU colleges and universities have a strong track record with traditionally under-served minority students

WAICU members enroll higher percentages of minority students than do UW System institutions and also graduate them at a higher rate than their public counterparts. The following table shows the percentage of minorities among bachelor’s degree recipients from 2000 - 2006.

Percentage of Bachelor’s Degree Completions by Minorities

	WAICU	UW
2000-2001	8.44%	6.57%
2001-2002	8.18%	6.06%
2002-2003	8.78%	6.37%
2003-2004	9.16%	6.85%
2004-2005	9.62%	6.78%
2005-2006	10.70%	7.22%

Source: Peer Analysis System, National Center for Education Statistics



Students and families can get help filling out the FAFSA on College Goal Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008. For locations and more information, go to WiCollegeGoalSunday.org

Upcoming WAICU workshop for Illinois school counselors

**Wednesday, March 5, 2008, 8 a.m. – noon
Stephens Convention Center (NEW venue!), Rosemont, Illinois**

To register, go to www.waicu.org/counselors

Questions? Call 1-800-4-DEGREE or contact us at info@waicu.org

President's Letter *continued from page 1*

Covenant, financial aid will be provided to those who without help could not otherwise attend college.

3. The Governor promised that the state will continue to increase state-funded student aid programs and that the Covenant Foundation grants will supplement those grants from the state to fill the gap of "unmet need."

This last point is of critical importance. Although some progress has been made,

Wisconsin still lags the Midwest in the provision of means-tested student aid. Our neighboring states of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Michigan all provide more grant dollars per full-time-equivalent undergraduate than does Wisconsin.

The Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB), a state agency, calculates that unmet need for all Wisconsin students amounts to \$401,722,398.

While the HEAB methodology is on its

own reckoning open to question, it is indicative of the magnitude of the gap facing Wisconsin students. But, for now, the operative words to Mr. George and to GLHEC are **thank you!**

Sincerely,



Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President

– WAICU BULLETIN BOARD –

KUDOS — **Walter T. Bond** of **Marquette University** and **Marissa L. Daniels** of **Carroll College** have won financial assistance awards through the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Education Scholarship . . . **Beth Oswald** of Milton, a graduate of **Beloit College** who teaches world history at J.C. McKenna Middle School in the Evansville Community School District and was already named Wisconsin Middle/Junior High School Teacher of the Year, was chosen as Wisconsin's entrant in the National Teacher of the Year program . . . **Megan Dixon**, an eighth-grade teacher at Greenfield Middle School, is the recipient of a \$25,000 Milken National Educator Award. Ms. Dixon holds a bachelor's degree from **Carroll College** and a master's degree from **Cardinal Stritch University** . . . **Bruce Moon**, an art therapy professor at **Mount Mary College**, has received an Honorary Life Member Award from the American Art Therapy Association . . . The admissions website for **Lakeland College** was rated one of the top ten in the nation by the National Research Center for College & University Admissions. In other news, Lakeland's teacher education program has become the first among Wisconsin colleges and universities to receive accreditation status from the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) . . . **St. Norbert College** has been named the recipient of a 2007 gold award for Best Electronic Newsletter by Region Five of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education . . . Three seniors at the **Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design** have recently won awards: **Natalie Schraufnagel** received a 2007 Gold International Design Excellence Award, **Meghan McGuire** was one of three first-place winners in the national Interzinc design contest, and **Dawn Stelter** won the Association of Rotational Molders International Student Design Competition . . . **Bill Schultz**, executive director of the **WAICU Educational Technology Consortium**, has been named to the **Ripon College** Athletic Hall of Fame . . . For the second consecutive year, a **Marquette University** faculty

member has been named Wisconsin Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. **Kristina Ropella**, chair of the biomedical engineering department, is this year's winner; **Don Neuman**, professor of physical therapy, won the honor last year.

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP — **President Douglas Hastad** of **Carroll College**, **President Richard Artman** of **Viterbo University**, and **President David Joyce** of **Ripon College** will play leadership roles at the Council of Independent Colleges' 2008 Presidents Institute . . . **John M. Nicholas**, vice president for administration and treasurer at **Beloit College**, was chosen by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* to lead a national conversation about how colleges can improve their planning for disasters and emergencies.

GRANTS — Recent grants received by **Concordia University Wisconsin** include \$10,000 from the Northwestern Mutual Foundation and \$209,000 from the Siebert Lutheran Foundation for the Design Your Future program leading to baccalaureate degrees for underserved students in Milwaukee, and \$5,000 from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board for the Environmental Science Education Pilot Program . . . **Beloit College**, **Marian College**, **Marquette University**, and **Ripon College** were among eleven Wisconsin institutions receiving McNair grants through the federal TRIO program for low-income and disadvantaged students who plan to pursue doctoral studies and research . . . The School of Urban Initiatives at **Cardinal Stritch University** has received \$70,000 from the Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation to support the Early Childhood Educator Baccalaureate Completion Program . . . **Marquette University** and **Carthage College** have been awarded Mathematics and Science Partnership Grants from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to work with teachers in their local school districts.

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Wisconsin Covenant Foundation *continued from page 1*

The following will serve on the Foundation's board of directors:

- Chris Abele, Argosy Foundation
- Mary Burke, former Secretary of Commerce
- Tom Boldt, CEO, Boldt Company
- Richard George, CEO, GLHEC
- Dick Hansen, President/CEO, Johnson Financial Group
- Dave Hanson, Partner, Michael Best & Friedrich
- Joan Prince, Vice Chancellor for Partnerships and Innovation at UW-Milwaukee
- Sister Joel Read, former President of Alverno College
- John Torinus, CEO, Serigraph Inc.
- Gerald Whitburn, Chairman/CEO, Church Mutual Insurance.

Covenant Scholars who take a college prep curriculum, keep their grades up, stay out of trouble, and perform community service will receive a financial aid package based on their family's need that will enable them to attend a Wisconsin public or private college or university.

The Wisconsin Covenant is a partnership between the University of Wisconsin System, the Wisconsin Technical College System, the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the state Department of Public Instruction. For more information, visit wisconsin covenant.wi.gov. ❖

"Education is the best investment."
– Ben S. Bernanke
Chair of the Federal Reserve
September 24, 2007

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