

THE WISCONSIN INDEPENDENT

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

SPRING 2013 VOL. 45 NO. 1



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Alverno College
Bellin College
Beloit College
Cardinal Stritch University
Carroll University
Carthage College
Columbia College of Nursing
Concordia University Wisconsin
Edgewood College
Lakeland College
Lawrence University
Marian University
Marquette University
Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Mount Mary College
Northland College
Ripon College
St. Norbert College
Silver Lake College of the Holy Family
Viterbo University
Wisconsin Lutheran College

INDEPENDENT INSIGHTS

Nonpartisan state commission supports financial aid

The Commission on Financial Aid Consolidation and Modernization was created by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Walker. I, together with Scott Flanagan, executive vice president of Edgewood College, were among those appointed by Gov. Walker to serve on this important Commission. The Commission undertook the first and most wide-ranging review of the State of Wisconsin's student financial aid programs in more than 20



Senator Fred Risser (D-Madison) and Representative Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan)

years. Working over six months, the Commission sent its final report to the Governor and Legislature on November 30, 2012.

It is notable, in this era of hyper-partisanship, that State Representative Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) and State Senator Fred Risser (D-Madison)

exerted substantial leadership in the work of the Commission and joined in the unanimous vote supporting its recommendations. Sen. Risser and Rep. Ballweg are part of a growing

continued on page 7

Support the Wisconsin Tuition Grant

Over 200 individuals from WAICU-member colleges and universities registered to attend WAICU Students' Day on Wednesday, February 27, 2013, in Madison. A winter storm had a lot to do with holding attendance down but what we lost in numbers we made up for in enthusiasm (one Milwaukee college brought a busload of students, staff, and trustees even though the college had to cancel classes due to the weather). Students, faculty, and administrators from Wisconsin's 23 private, nonprofit colleges and universities gathered first for a rally and to learn more about the legislative process, and then moved to the Capitol for individual visits with their legislators. Their goal was



Students hold their "Power of Financial Aid" cards—get the message?

to make the case that need-based financial aid is vital to student success in college and that it plays a crucial role in insuring our state's economic future.

The students were there to support need-based financial aid for students attending all of Wisconsin's colleges and universities—

continued on page 6

Wisconsin Private College Week: July 8-13

It's time for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to begin exploring their college opportunities. **Wisconsin Private College Week**, scheduled this year from **July 8-13**, offers students a chance to "jump start" the college search process.

It's never too early for students and families to get a feel for the private, nonprofit colleges and universities Wisconsin, each with its own unique excitement. During this "open house" week, there will be tours on each campus, talks by admission and financial aid officers, and information on majors and extracurricular activities.

The place to start is WAICU's dedicated website, PrivateCollegeWeek.com, where students and families will find details about Wisconsin's 23 private, nonprofit colleges and universities. They can also learn how to **register for drawings to win a \$1,000 "Go Grant"** that can be applied to tuition at any WAICU-member college or university. Winning students have up to two years to use their grant, so it's perfect for sophomores as well as juniors. **Counselors can also be winners.** We are offering an iPad2 as a prize to the person who encourages the most students to sign up for the drawing. Complete rules and how to qualify for the iPad2 drawing can be found on the website. An added benefit of Private College Week is the waiver of application fees that students will receive at each campus they visit. For more information, call 1-800-4 DEGREE or just head to PrivateCollegeWeek.com. ■



Learn and earn credits with the 2013 College Seminar Tour

High school counselors are invited to participate in the twentieth annual College Seminar Tour to be held June 16-21. Each year this popular seminar explores colleges and universities in different areas of Wisconsin as well as selected out-of-state institutions near Wisconsin's border. You'll gain valuable insight into the colleges and universities and the college selection process while also earning three graduate credits toward the renewal of your state license. The graduate credits, offered through Marian University, are approved by the Department of Public Instruction and endorsed by the Wisconsin Association for College Admission Counseling and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. For more information, go to marianuniversity.edu or e-mail cst@marianuniversity.edu.

WAICU SCHOOL COUNSELOR WORKSHOPS

4th WAICU school counselor workshop added—save the dates now!

Monday, October 14, 2013

Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Beloit College, Beloit

Monday, October 21, 2013

St. Norbert College, De Pere

NEW: Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Metropolis Resort, Eau Claire

In order to better serve high school counselors throughout Wisconsin, WAICU has added a fourth high school counselor workshop for 2013. Learn about applying for college, selecting a college, securing financial aid, and how WAICU can support you and the students you serve.

School counselors will also have the opportunity to talk one-to-one with college admission officers from Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities, and get the latest admission and financial aid updates from WAICU-member colleges and universities. Free continental breakfast and lunch will be provided and professional development certificates will be awarded.

For more information on this free workshop, visit our webpage just for counselors at waicu.org/counselors.



Do you need additional copies of the WAICU 2013 *Guide to Admission and Financial Aid*? Call WAICU at 1-800-4-DEGREE to order more.

The Stream, new center for Visual and Theatre Arts, opens

EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in September, Edgewood College dedicated *The Stream*. Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, trustees, donors, and community members celebrated with an open house in the afternoon, followed by special events.

The 44,000-square-foot, three-level building is the new home for the college's art programs, with studio space dedicated to graphic design, drawing, painting, mixed media, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photography, video, advanced web design, animation and multi-media. There is also a specialized laboratory-learning classroom with adjacent meeting room for the college's renowned art therapy and art education programming. The Edgewood College Gallery is also located in the new center.

The Department of Theatre Arts is housed in *The Stream*. The building features a new

120-seat "black box" theatre, and dedicated areas for costuming, set construction, storage, and dressing rooms.

Edgewood is pursuing LEED® certification for the new building, a process that began before construction. College officials are in the final stages of preparing application materials for the United States Green Building Council, the governing body that oversees LEED designations. A central feature of the sustainable construction and operation is the building's geo-thermal heating and cooling system. The system is filled with glycol, which is now coursing through 45 wells, each 400 feet deep, where the earth's temperature remains steady year-round. The constant temperature of the glycol enables more efficient heating and cooling as temperatures vary with the



Edgewood's new Visual and Theater Arts Center, *The Stream*

seasons.

The Stream is situated overlooking Lake Wingra, one of Madison's four lakes and, in part, serves to inspire the unique name for the center. With partners J.H. Findorff and Sons, and Potter-Lawson, one of the college's trustee's coined the name, inspired by one of her favorite quotes: "A stream of giving quenches the thirst for beauty through the arts." ■

Sustainable China program seeks to broaden student engagement in East Asia

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

Lawrence University's long-standing commitment to engaging students with East Asia has been bolstered by a \$400,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation. The grant will support the college's distinctive, multi-disciplinary initiative "Sustainable China: Integrating Culture, Conservation and Commerce."

The program is a collaboration among Lawrence's East Asian Studies and Environmental Studies programs and includes faculty in biology, Chinese and Japanese language and culture, economics, government, and history.

The program is designed to broaden and deepen Lawrence student engagement with China through the curriculum, diversify opportunities for students to gain first-hand experience with China, and promote mutually beneficial partnerships with Chinese organizations

"In today's world it is vitally important students grapple with the complexity of sustainability, transcending the purely



Lawrence University students and faculty tour of new water filtration plant during a visit to China's Yunnan Province.

scientific and environmental issues to encompass economic, political, and cultural factors as well. China offers an ideal context for such study," said Merton Finkler, professor of economics and program co-director.

Lawrence's Sustainable China program will expand existing partnerships with

Guizhou Normal University and the Linden Centre in Yunnan province. Guizhou is home to the Institute of China South Karst, with which Lawrence has collaborated previously to improve understanding of how culture, conservation, and commerce must be integrated for true sustainability. The Linden Centre serves as a retreat for the study of how traditional Chinese culture meshes with modern economic development in an ecologically responsible way.

"The interdisciplinary nature of our program offers a distinctive lens through which our students study China, one based on the assertion that sustainability must address various perspectives on how scarce resources are allocated and managed," said Finkler. ■

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Eight new athletic teams to be added in 2013-2014

CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY

Cardinal Stritch University's Wolves Athletics will add eight new teams beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year.

The new teams include men's track and field, women's track and field, men's bowling, women's bowling, men's tennis, women's tennis, men's golf, and women's golf. An in-depth demographic analysis of college students in Wisconsin and nationwide took place, which revealed high interest in each of these new programs.

"Stritch has long embraced the leadership and character development that come with athletic participation," said Dr. James Loftus, Stritch president. "These additions will not only afford new opportunities for our students to seek out those enriching activities, they will also enhance the student life experience for our entire campus community."

Athletics has played an important role

at Stritch for years. In 1971, basketball became the first intercollegiate sport for men. Over the years, additional programs were added, including women's



basketball, men's baseball, women's softball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, and men's and women's volleyball.

"This marks a new day for athletics

at Stritch," said Patrick Clemens, athletic director. "We are excited about bringing new student athletes to campus and sharing the traditions of Stritch with them, as well as adding new opportunities for our students and creating new levels of excitement for our student body."

The Stritch Wolves are affiliated with the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and are part of the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC).

Since 2008, Stritch Athletics has had 59 all-conference athletes, 13 NAIA All-Americans, 40 Stritch Scholar Athletes, 51 CCAC Scholar Athletes, 25 NAIA Scholar Athletes, nine NAIA National Tournament appearances, 19 conference tournament appearances, nine regular season conference championships, five conference tournament championships, seven conference coaches of the year, and five conference players of the year. ■

New debate program implemented

LAKELAND COLLEGE

Lakeland College has created a debate program and has hired a familiar face from Wisconsin's debate community to lead it.

David Henning, who has more than 30 years of debate experience, will coach Lakeland's debate and forensics team and teach the college's new debate course, which is being offered for the first time this spring.

Lakeland's program is for students at every level of experience—from high school national championship qualifiers to those with no previous debate experience. More than a dozen current Lakeland students, some with high school debate experience, have expressed interest in joining the debate team; these students will give Henning a core to build around. Lakeland's team will compete in various debate, forensics and individual speech events.



David Henning brings 32 years of experience to Lakeland's new debate program.

"Everyone I have met and talked to at Lakeland has reinforced the idea that there is a commitment to building a competitive debate program," said Henning, director of debate at Sheboygan South High School and assistant director of debate at Sheboygan North High School.

"I'm looking forward to taking

intelligent, motivated students with little or no formal debate experience and teaching them the debate skills they will use for the rest of their lives as well as turning them into solid collegiate debaters who fare well at regional and national college debate tournaments."

Henning has been a debater, debate coach, and judge for 32 years. He participated in more than 300 debates in high school and college, and has judged nearly 2,000 debates. He won one high school and three college state debate championships and placed second nationally in the 1985 Freshman/Sophomore College National Debate Tournament.

Lakeland's new debate course will include traditional readings and discussions, videos of several different formats of debate (political, presidential, high school and college policy debates) and interactive lessons. "Developing their communication skills will help anyone succeed in their classes as well as in their chosen careers," Henning said. ■

First class to graduate from radiologic sciences program

BELLIN COLLEGE

On May 17th, 2013, eight young women will walk across the stage and become Bellin College's first graduating class from the Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences (BSRS) program. For over 50 years, Bellin Health System has educated radiologic technologists through a 2-year diploma program. However, in 2009, the college was proud to announce its first cohort of students enrolled in the new 4-year baccalaureate program.

The BSRS program offers a demanding, comprehensive curriculum. Students are provided extensive radiography experiences in both the classroom and clinical setting. The program is fully accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology and supplies the students with practice in general radiography and two of the follow-

ing specialties: CT scanning (Computed Tomography), MRI scanning (Magnetic



Seniors in Bellin College's radiologic sciences program will be the first to graduate this spring.

Resonance Imaging), and Women's Imaging (Mammography and DXA Scanning-osteoporosis detection). It is a

true 4-year baccalaureate degree program in the radiologic sciences and one of only a few in the country.

"Being a part of the first graduating class from Bellin College's School of Radiologic Sciences has been an incredible experience," said Casey Fazer, one of the graduating seniors in the BSRS program. "The education I've received over the past four years is irreplaceable and has paved the way for me to become the best possible healthcare professional. This program means more to me than just an education; throughout the years, it has turned into a small family. I'm thrilled that I'll

be graduating from this institution and achieving another goal in my life, but sad that this chapter is ending." ■

Shared space between WAICU members will be a model for future opportunities

ST. NORBERT COLLEGE

The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) will be sharing space in St. Norbert's planned new science building, a location that will serve as the base for a new Green Bay area physician-training program. MCW is working with St. Norbert to house its classrooms, offices, and learning laboratories in the new building with the expectation that the medical education program will admit its first 15 students in July 2015. Class sizes will increase to at least 25 students in subsequent years. St. Norbert president Thomas Kunkel said, "This arrangement will be unique in many, many ways. We are not aware of any other college of our size or type that has a medical college campus at its location." The medical school students will have access to student services at St. Norbert as well as the new Michels Commons and the Mulva Library.

Kunkel sees the partnership with MCW as bringing further beneficial impact, particularly in conjunction with



A rendering of the new science building which will be a shared space between WAICU members, the Medical College of Wisconsin and St. Norbert College.

the new science building: "Having a medical college here is going to be hugely attractive to smart young people interested in the sciences—especially those who are considering the health fields. "It's going to create a ton of opportunities for our faculty. There is going to be the strong possibility of collaborations with their counterparts at the Medical College for

research opportunities. There are going to be teaching opportunities. There probably also will be research opportunities for our students. We're really hopeful that a certain number of spots might be guaranteed for our students who are pre-med, who meet the qualifications. For us, we just see opportunities. We also think, frankly, that the future of higher education in general is about more and more collaborative opportunities. This new

partnership will be a model." The new science-education facility planned for campus will allow St. Norbert faculty and undergraduates, as well as MCW, to work on the leading edge of science and mathematics. Some \$32 million of the anticipated \$41 million cost of constructing and equipping the new building has already been raised. ■

Partnering with Milwaukee and its Irish sister city

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

The Wisconsin Lutheran College Choir is comprised of 69 students who come from 11 states, three foreign countries, and a variety of academic programs. But for 15 days this spring, the unified voice of the choir will come together to represent Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC), the city of Milwaukee, and the state of Wisconsin in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The choir, under the direction of Dr. James A. Nowack, is making final arrangements for the trip, the choir's fourth international performance tour.

Among the highlights will be a visit to Galway, Ireland, one of Milwaukee's Sister Cities and Ireland's cultural heart. Milwaukee's Sister City agreement with Galway has been in place since 2001. Sister City partnerships promote cultural, educational, and economic exchanges. Milwaukee officials, especially Ald. Michael

J. Murphy, have been instrumental in helping WLC secure performance venues, accommodations, and publicity in Galway.



The Wisconsin Lutheran College choir with the college's president Dr. Dan Johnson (second from left)

Dr. Daniel W. Johnson, president of WLC, said: "We are excited to partner with Ald. Murphy and the city of Milwaukee on our choir tour. We also appreciate

the collaborative relationship we have experienced with the Galway delegation and are looking forward to providing our students with a once-in-a-lifetime learning and performance opportunity."

The final concert on the 2013 tour will take place on June 1 in Galway's historic St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, the largest medieval parish church in Ireland in continuous use as a place of worship, dating back to the 1300s.

"Our tours provide such a contrast in performance venues," said Dr. Nowack. "A concert in a small, rural town is a special event for residents, and they are so receptive. On the other hand, it's an honor for us to perform in historic cathedrals in larger cities. Regardless of the venue, the

concerts allow our students to experience the world eye-to-eye with one person, one audience, one culture at a time in a unique and exciting context." ■

WAICU Students' Day and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant

continued from page 1

public and private, two-year and four-year. The campaign titled "Power of Financial Aid" is a partnership of the United Council of UW Students, Wisconsin Student Government,



A group of students and staff prepare for individual appointments with their Wisconsin legislators on WAICU Students' Day.

the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association, and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

This year WAICU Students' Day featured a student panel,

where students at WAICU-member colleges and universities spoke to their peers on their experiences with financial aid and took part in a question and answer session. Lena Scheibengraber, a student at Alverno College, was one of the panelists. "I wouldn't be able to go to college if I didn't have financial aid. There are people who can't go to school without this assistance. It can be really tough to decide what to do if you no longer have that option of getting state aid," she said. Lena also said that, for her, financial aid means "I'm not stressing out too much because college does make up a big portion of my budget." Lena works a job contributing all she can towards her college education. Lena is also a peer tutor, study group monitor, student ambassador, orientation leader, and member of Circle K International. She hopes to be an economics professor.

The Power of Financial Aid campaign continues until the Legislature passes, and the Governor signs, the 2013-2015 biennial budget. Learn more, view videos of students and alumni, and show your support for state student financial aid by signing the petition—all at www.PowerOfFinancialAid.org. ■



consensus that the most efficient and economical way to increase levels of educational attainment in this state and to make Wisconsin a leader in the worldwide Knowledge Economy is to invest directly in our bright and talented young (and not so young) Wisconsin citizens. Students with the talent and gifts to succeed—given the resources—will pursue the higher education that is right for them. By “right for them,” I mean an education that will help them succeed in their careers and in their lives. The slogan “Power to the People” describes student aid. Time and time again student aid has been shown to achieve results so vital to the future of our citizens and community. Wisconsin lags the nation and its neighbors in the per capita aid it provides to Wisconsin students attending Wisconsin colleges and universities. Every year 76,000 Wisconsin students are turned away from receiving financial aid because of a lack of funding.

The Commission urged that the four major student aid programs continue to have separate appropriations, but be renamed the Wisconsin Grant-UW, the Wisconsin Grant-WTCS, Wisconsin Grant-WAICU, and the Wisconsin Grant-Tribal Colleges. The Commission felt that renaming the existing programs reinforces the intent of the state to recognize that a Wisconsin student is a Wisconsin student, and, regardless of the institution they attend, the state’s investment in them should be equitable. The Commission also urged the Legislature to adopt a systematic, consistent way of appropriating state funds year after year for the major state student aid programs, linking percentage increases in the appropriations to the increases in public tuition. Critics often say that elected officials do not address the strategic and the long-term. With this Commission, the State of Wisconsin has proved the critics wrong. I, for one, am encouraged.

Sincerely,



Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President



WAICU BULLETIN BOARD

KUDOS

- Oconto Falls High School college prep and AP biology teacher **JoAnn Miller** was named one of Wisconsin’s Teachers of the Year by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Ms. Miller received teaching certification from **Concordia University Wisconsin** and a Masters in Education from **Viterbo University**.
- **St. Norbert College** senior **Steven Garza** has been selected as White House intern for Spring 2013, where he is working in the Office of the Chief of Staff. Garza, an international studies and political science double major and McNair Scholarship recipient, began his internship in January and will continue through spring semester.
- **Concordia University Wisconsin** and **Wisconsin Lutheran College** have received a CIC NetVUE Program Development Grant. The grant supports development and expansion of existing campus programs for the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation. Thirty-three grants were awarded to colleges with a wide spectrum of religious affiliations.
- For the second straight year, **Lakeland College** has received statewide recognition for its efforts to improve financial literacy. The Lakeland College Center for Economic Education, led by Lakeland College faculty member **Scott Niederjohn**, and the director of Lakeland’s Milwaukee Center, **Tim O’Driscoll**, were each selected for a 2012 Wisconsin Financial Literacy Award by the Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy.
- When it comes to critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication, **Carthage College** seniors are in the top 11 percent nationwide among colleges and universities using the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA). The CLA is a national tool which measures a college’s contribution to the development of four higher-order skills: analytical reasoning and evaluation, problem solving, writing effectiveness, and writing mechanics.
- **Dr. David Cook**, professor emeritus of physics at **Lawrence University**, has been elected a Fellow in the American Physical Society for his contributions to physics education in America.
- **Dr. Joseph J. Piatt**, associate professor of chemistry and environmental science and chair of the Department of Life Sciences at **Carroll University**, has been recognized by the Milwaukee Section of the American Chemical Society with its 2012 award which honors members for outstanding contributions or service to the industry.
- **St. Norbert College**’s chief information officer, **Rachelle Clemons**, was named as one of the “20 Rising Star CIOs on Twitter” by Huffington Post which was highlighted in “The 13 Most Social Higher Education CIOs on Twitter” by *Ed Tech Magazine*.
- **Edgewood College**, **Lawrence University**, **Marquette University**, **Ripon College**, **St. Norbert College**, and **Viterbo University** have been honored for excellence in student-focused higher education by Colleges of Distinction. Colleges and universities are nominated for participation in Colleges of Distinction through high school counselors’ recommendations as well as quantitative search.
- **Dr. Jeffrey Blessing**, professor and director of **MSOE**’s management information systems program, received the 2012 KEEN Excellence Award for outstanding contributions by an individual to the Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network (KEEN). Dr. Blessing was chosen from among 300 faculty members at 20 KEEN universities across the U.S.
- **Rebecca Thieme-Baseseman**, a 2005 graduate of **St. Norbert College**, has authored a new children’s book, “Miller: The Mostly Mischief-Maker Who Went Missing” (2012-Orange Hat Publishers).
- **Dr. Jay Sandlow**, vice chairman and professor of urology at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**, has been elected president-elect of the American Society of Andrology. He begins this new position in April 2013 and will become the society’s president in 2014.
- **Alverno College** was recognized for the Jostens/National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators (NADIII) Community Service Awards at the 2013 NCAA Convention. **Brad Duckworth**, Alverno’s director of athletics, accepted the award for honorable mention in the continuous project category on behalf of the college’s student-athletes. The award took into consideration the services performed during the 2011-12 academic year.
- The 2012 Stritch Serves volunteer initiative has resulted in the logging of close to 12,000 hours of volunteerism/community service by **Cardinal Stritch University** alumni, faculty, and staff, a number that far exceeds the initial goals. By the estimated rate of \$20 per hour for volunteer service, this final number translates to a community contribution of almost a quarter of

continued on page 8



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“Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.”

Gilbert K. Chesterton, writer
1874-1936

WAICU: WISCONSIN'S PRIVATE, NONPROFIT COLLEGES WORKING TOGETHER TO ADVANCE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

WAICU BULLETIN BOARD continued from page 7

a million dollars in 2012.

- **Dr. Eric Durant**, associate professor in **MSOE's** electrical engineering and computer science department, has been named Young Engineer of the Year by STEM Forward. The award is presented annually to an outstanding contributor to the engineering profession from the Milwaukee area.
- **Gina Barton**, an adjunct lecturer of communication at **Carroll University** and investigative reporter at the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, has won a national journalism award for her “courageous reporting” of *A Death in Police Custody*. The George Polk Award for Local Reporting will be presented to Barton in April 2013.
- The **Bellin College** Student Senate received a certificate of appreciation for their hard work on their annual Troops Donation Project from MAJ Sharon L. Falke, the 448th Civil Affairs Battalion and First Sergeant Arnold K. Lovins.
- The new DIY Network original series *Made in Milwaukee* features **MAD** alumni **Jeremy Shamrowicz** and **Jesse Meyer** of Flux Design. *Made in Milwaukee* follows the team from Flux as they renovate homes, overhauling outdated rooms and remodeling them to be unique works of art.

PROGRAMS AND DEGREES

- In an effort to meet a critical need for better trained and better educated nurses, several **WAICU-**member colleges and universities are creating and upgrading programs. RNs with two-year degrees from any Wisconsin technical college can now fully apply those credits toward the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Completion program at **Cardinal Stritch University**. Similarly, **Alverno College** will launch a redesigned RN to BSN program in June of 2013. The 18-month program, a blend of online and in-classroom learning, is structured so that working registered nurses can earn their Bachelor's degree. In addition, **Edgewood College** will launch a new graduate program in the School of Nursing, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Leadership. The DNP degree emphasizes the highest level of education in order to prepare experts in specialized advanced nursing roles.
- **Lakeland College** has introduced a new communication major which will prepare students to understand and use new and social media in a variety of professional settings after graduation.
- **MSOE** will establish the **Carter Academy**, an intense academic program to provide opportunity for under-prepared students who wish to pursue engineering education. The effort is possible thanks to an endowed gift from **Dr. Gene and Mrs. Patricia Carter**.

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