

## About Wisconsin Grants

*The twenty-four private, or independent, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without direct taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 58,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need financial help to attend the college of their choice.*

*The Wisconsin Tuition Grant, now known as Wisconsin Grants, was enacted in 1965 to help qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Each month Wisconsin Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites at WAICU member campuses for whom Wisconsin Grants have made a significant difference.*

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## First-generation student at Marquette committed to local community

When deciding where to attend college, Victor Ike, now a senior majoring in psychology and minoring in criminology, chose Marquette University for its resources, values, and focus on service to the Milwaukee community.

“I had the opportunity to either attend a public institution or Marquette,” Victor said. “Marquette’s commitment to the community was ultimately why I made the decision I did.”

Financial aid, including the Wisconsin Grant and institutional aid from Marquette, helped Victor to attend the university that was the best fit for him.

Throughout his time at Marquette, Victor has found numerous opportunities to engage with the local community. He has been involved with the African Student Association, Black Student Council, National Association of the Advancement of Colored People, and the Marquette University Alumni Association.

Victor is also a participant in the Educational Opportunity Program, a student support services program that has assisted more than 1,800 first-generation



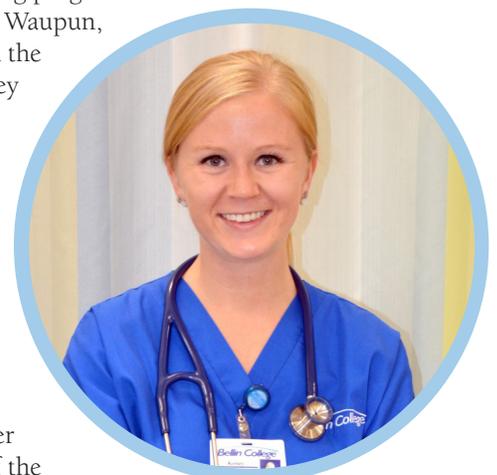
Victor Ike

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## Future nurse thrives at Bellin College

Kelsey Tavs is a senior in Bellin College’s traditional nursing program and will graduate in May 2018. She is from the small town of Waupun, Wisconsin and chose to attend Bellin College to follow in the footsteps of her older sister who graduated in 2001. Kelsey knew from her first encounter with Bellin College that it was the place she was meant to receive her education. “The small, family-like environment is priceless,” said Kelsey. “My classmates are my forever friends and the faculty members, who know me personally, have been positive influences whom I will always appreciate and remember.”

Kelsey has taken advantage of every opportunity she has been given to become a leader and grow as a person and future nurse. She founded and serves as the student leader of the InterVarsity chapter. In addition, she is secretary of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, a member of the Bellin College Love Your Melon campus crew, a class representative for Bellin Student Nurses Association, and a student ambassador for the College. She has achieved success in academics and is heavily involved in student organizations, however after graduation, Kelsey would most like to be remembered as a student who poured her heart into everything she did and treated everyone with kindness.



Kelsey Tavs

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**Victor Ike** continued from page 1

college students and students from low-income families obtain a college education since 1969. Victor credits EOP for much of his academic and personal success during his time at Marquette.

For Victor, failure is not an option. As a first-generation college student from Milwaukee, he holds himself to a high standard. "I cannot allow myself to become a statistic of failure," he said.

His education has inspired him to further pursue a law degree after graduation. "I have high hopes of becoming a criminal defense attorney," said Victor. He was accepted into the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, which prepares students for graduate school. During the academic year, students attend monthly seminars, meet visiting scholars, and participate in student and professional conferences. During the summer, McNair students participate in the Summer Research Internship Program (SRIP), a paid research internship which provides an in-depth research experience, working one-to-one with a faculty mentor, and the opportunity to network with other undergraduates from across the nation.

His first goal, though, is making his family proud. "I can't wait to see the joy on my parents' faces as their first son graduates from college."

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

87 percent of undergraduate students at WAICU-member institutions receive grant aid (including institutional grants), compared to 50 percent at four-year public University of Wisconsin institutions.

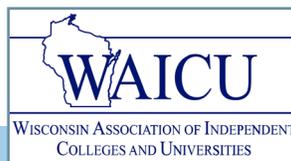
Source: IPEDS 2016

**Kelsey Tavs** continued from page 1

Kelsey is one of the students selected to travel to Guatemala for a 10-day medical mission trip in January. As much as she hopes to provide for these people, she knows she will be the one who comes back changed. Kelsey describes the student body at Bellin College as being, "a community of students who are striving towards the same goals and are prepared to enter the workforce upon graduation." She said, "Walking into this school makes me feel a sense of pride and belonging, which is what receiving an education should feel like."

After graduation, Kelsey hopes to land a nursing position that allows her to implement everything she has learned and to build upon the personal values she has established at Bellin College. "I expect nursing to be both challenging and rewarding. I'm ready to take on this challenge to reap the rewards, even if they seem small. Who knows? Maybe I will return to college at some point in life to serve on the other side of education – teaching students how to become the best nurses they can be," Kelsey said.

"The support I have received through financial aid, including grants and scholarships, has supported my dream to become a successful healthcare professional. My education at Bellin College will enable me to leave here with integrity, ready to invest in the community, and ready to provide patient-specific care. These contributions are critical investments in the future of healthcare. Before you know it, each graduate from Bellin College will be on the front lines of patient care, advocating for patients and putting our knowledge to the test. I assure you that Bellin College grads will be ready to deliver."



*Wisconsin's Private, Nonprofit Colleges and Universities*

Alverno College *Milwaukee*  
 Bellin College *Green Bay*  
 Beloit College *Beloit*  
 Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*  
 Carroll University *Waukesha*  
 Carthage College *Kenosha*  
 Columbia College of Nursing *Milwaukee*  
 Concordia University Wisconsin *Mequon*

Edgewood College *Madison*  
 Lakeland University *Plymouth*  
 Lawrence University *Appleton*  
 Marian University *Fond du Lac*  
 Marquette University *Milwaukee*  
 Medical College of Wisconsin *Milwaukee*  
 Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design *Milwaukee*  
 Milwaukee School of Engineering *Milwaukee*

Mount Mary University *Milwaukee*  
 Neshotah House *Neshotah*  
 Northland College *Ashland*  
 Ripon College *Ripon*  
 St. Norbert College *De Pere*  
 Silver Lake College *Manitowoc*  
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*  
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*