

Wisconsin Achievers

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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 nearly 56,000 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.

Wisconsin Achievers is published by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU):

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Carthage College student expands horizons

Andrew Igl, a senior attending Carthage College, chose a field of study that can't be experienced from afar. That's why the extensive experience he's gained abroad is so important.

A Japanese major, Andrew has had an interest in that subject since high school. What started when Andrew and a friend decided to learn the language in their free time turned into the formation of an official Japanese club, with Andrew spearheading the organization.

Applying for college, Andrew was unsure what path he wanted to follow. Originally expecting to study physical therapy, he realized Japanese was what he was truly cared about — even if it would be a “riskier” major.

Andrew began applying to colleges that offered Japanese. He was awarded a generous Modern Language Scholarship from Carthage College, where he enrolled and declared a double minor in Asian studies and business administration.

After graduating from high school in the Dane County village of Oregon, Andrew traveled to Japan for the first time. The three-week trip, which Andrew

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Andrew Igl

College gives Megan Batz a way to combine her passions

Megan Batz can picture her future: crouched at a small table in a hospital with a box of art supplies and a child.

Megan is a junior at Carroll University, majoring in photography with minors in graphic design and psychology and an emphasis in pre-occupational therapy. She's getting quite an education.

The Lake Geneva native has been keenly interested in art as long as she can remember. Health care was another passion, but she had a hard time picturing it as a career choice, given her dislike of the sight of blood. That was, until college introduced her to the breadth of career options in health care. At Carroll, she has explored, first considering radiation technology before finding her true calling. Now, she hopes to marry her artistic and health care interests as an occupational therapist, working with hospitalized children.

“I'd really like to work at a children's hospital somewhere with the little kids, doing art projects and the like” she said. “It would be a good way to combine occupational therapy with my art background.”

Attending a private liberal arts school like Carroll has given her the opportunity to explore her varied passions and to navigate her own path in the world. But that wouldn't have happened without financial aid, including the Wisconsin Grant.

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Megan Batz

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described as “eye-opening and moving,” eliminated any doubt about his decision.

In his first two years at Carthage, Andrew was actively involved around campus. Starting from scratch in Japanese, Andrew went on to tutoring, eventually becoming a tutor himself. He befriended Japanese exchange students and went to department events.

Andrew followed another passion by joining InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He now serves as a leader for the campus ministry group, attending leadership meetings and leading Bible study. In his sophomore year, Andrew was given a second opportunity to travel to Japan, as one of 22 students chosen to participate in the Kakehashi Project. The Japanese-government funded program teaches participants about the country’s culture and economy while building international relationships.

Andrew returned to Japan for a third time less than a year later, studying abroad in Tokyo for the entirety of his junior year. He spent the year learning the language, adjusting to a different culture and lifestyle, and making international friends. Although the experience put Andrew out of his comfort zone, by the end, saying goodbye to the country he had grown to love was difficult.

As the end of Andrew’s collegiate career approaches, he is confident in his abilities to put the skills acquired in his Japanese major to work. For the immediate future, he anticipates teaching English in Japan, and he looks forward to additional opportunities down the line.

Andrew’s story of passion and dedication never would have been possible without financial aid support like the Wisconsin Grant.

“This grant really gives me the opportunity to not worry about having to pay for my experience, but to really get the most out of it,” he said. “It’s helping me to prepare for the rest of my life.”

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“I knew in high school that I wanted a smaller school,” she said. “I wanted to go to a college where I could really get to know my professors, and I wasn’t sure I’d get that in a larger school. This just felt like a better education for me. I toured Carroll’s campus and knew right away this was for me.”

Like many students at Carroll, the more opportunity available, the more interests she pursued.

Since arriving at Carroll, Megan has been busy, determined to make the most of her experience. “Financial aid makes this possible,” she noted. “And it means I am able to continue going here, each year. I’ve known people who have had to take a year off to work, and I know many end up never going back. The aid I receive means I can stay in school and move more quickly toward my future. The financial aid makes all the difference.”

She’s in a hurry. Graduate school is up next. And there are children in need of her help.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Nationally, postsecondary enrollment (at all types of Title IV colleges) has dropped for 6 years in a row, while enrollment at private, nonprofit colleges has increased for 21 years in a row.

Source:
U.S. Department of Education, 2016

*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*
Concordia University Wisconsin *Mequon*
Edgewood College *Madison*

Herzing University *Milwaukee*
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*
Nashotah House *Nashotah*
Northland College *Ashland*
Ripon College *Ripon*
St. Norbert College *De Pere*
Silver Lake College of the Holy Family *Manitowoc*
Viterbo University *La Crosse*
Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*