

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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Lawrence University's Maralee Mindock making a musical mark

Maralee Mindock made a discovery in the sixth grade, a discovery that has played a central role in her life ever since: she found out she had “good air for the oboe.”

The Lawrence University senior from Kaukauna has used her oboe as an instrument not only of music, but of enlightenment. Beyond performing with the Lawrence Symphony Orchestra and the Lawrence Wind Ensemble, Maralee is active with a community-focused woodwind quintet — Solaris Winds — she helped found her freshman year.

“We love finding different opportunities for performance venues,” says Maralee, citing the Fox Valley Warming Shelter as one of her favorites. “It’s not your normal concert hall. People are coming and going. Some are walking in to get shower supplies and, for some other people, it’s a free meal event.

“Everyone is welcome to stay and we talk about music,” she adds. “The really cool part is we frame and talk about some themes that they might hear, something they might recognize. We also introduce all of the instruments that make up a woodwind quintet because maybe they’ve never seen a woodwind quintet perform. At the end, they always have interesting questions. They’re so interested in why you play music, what makes you want to keep going.”

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Maralee Mindock

Viterbo University preparing Waterford student for dental school

When Nicole Broz of Waterford graduates from Viterbo University in La Crosse with a degree in biology, she will be ready to attend dental school at Marquette University with the ultimate goal of owning her own practice.

A college education and fulfilling her dream of becoming a dentist is made possible by the Wisconsin Grant and other financial aid.

“Although I worked very hard at two jobs throughout high school and during summers, it is not enough to pay for tuition at any school,” said Nicole, who will earn her degree in December 2018 after only three and a half years. “Without financial aid, it would not be possible for me to attend Viterbo University. Financial aid has made this school much more affordable to me and I am so thankful. Earning a college degree is something that I’ve always known that I wanted.”

Nicole chose to attend Viterbo for two reasons, the first of which is the sense of welcome she felt from the university’s close-knit campus community. She also did exceptionally well in Viterbo’s largest scholarship competition.

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Nicole Broz

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Maralee's quintet also has a partnership with Riverview Gardens, an Appleton-based non-profit, community organic urban farm and hydroponics greenhouse built on a former golf course. The club house now serves as an occasional concert venue.

"Music is moving more towards a connection between performers and audience," explains Maralee. "You want the audience to understand what you portray in the music and have the next level experience together. It's so nice to have an intimate setting where we can talk about the piece."

A triple major at Lawrence — oboe performance, instrumental music education, and choral and general music education — Maralee is hoping to conduct her student-teaching next fall and winter in New Zealand.

"I didn't have the opportunity to go abroad with my class schedule during my four years at Lawrence, but we have a student-teaching exchange program with the University of Auckland, so I'm looking into doing that.

"That's why the Wisconsin Grant is very important as I'm trying to save up," says Maralee, who has served as president of Lawrence's chapter of Lambda Sigma honor society and Lawrence Christian Fellowship.

After graduation, Maralee would love to return to school...at the front of the classroom.

"If I went to an underprivileged or a low-budget school where they could only hire one music teacher, I would love to offer a string program, a choir program, a band program, run the musical, do the show choir," says Maralee. "I'd love to do all that."

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"When I toured campus, science faculty convinced me to apply for the Health Science Scholarship Competition to possibly win a scholarship and make Viterbo more affordable for me. I ended up winning third place, which came with a prize of \$10,000 over four years. This, along with the great financial aid packages available at Viterbo, is what really convinced me to attend. Viterbo is a great school, and the cost became comparable to a state school because of my scholarships, grants, and financial aid."

Professor Tammy Clark, who Nicole called her favorite faculty member for making a feared organic chemistry class very interesting and manageable, helped her set up an internship and research project at Grand River Dental in downtown La Crosse.

When Nicole isn't busy with academics, she enjoys the outdoors, listening to music, watching baseball, and working as a tour guide in the Viterbo admissions office.

"Nicki has a true love for Viterbo and enjoys sharing this with perspective students and their families," said Caryn Witt, Viterbo's visit and events coordinator, who knows Nicole very well. "Nicki has a strong academic record; she excels at time management and balancing school, work, and life—yet she still has time for volunteering, and cheering on her favorite baseball team, the Cubs. Nicki's work ethic and her strong desire to help others will take her far in life. She has a great future."



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*

FACT OF THE MONTH

Between 2011 and 2016, well over 10,000 students transferred from a Wisconsin technical college to a WAICU-member institution.