

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.

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Business administration major finds success in tight-knit campus community

It's all about fit when choosing a college: the right educational offerings, the right academic rigor, and the right culture. Finding the right fit isn't easy, but for Amber Bilitz, the choice was clear.

Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) was Amber's perfect fit, and the Wisconsin Grant helped her afford her dream of attending the college. "I chose WLC because of its student-focused culture. The faculty, staff, and the other students have the hearts of servants," said Amber, who is from Cottage Grove, Wisconsin. "The professors want us to succeed. They know our names and build relationships with us. WLC keeps its values in the center of the classroom."

Since her arrival on WLC's close-knit campus nearly four years ago, Amber has made the most of her opportunities at WLC. "I have been incredibly involved in the campus community and have taken on many leadership roles that I know I would not have pursued elsewhere," said Amber.



Amber Bilitz

In addition to her regular course load, Amber is enrolled in WLC's Christian Leadership Certificate Program. "I wanted to start my career with the leadership skills I know are important to success," said Amber. The program is designed for students seeking to strengthen their

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Bellin College student set on career in healthcare since middle school

Kayli Mallien, a senior this year in the radiology program at Bellin College in Green Bay, came to the college in a roundabout way. A 2013 graduate of Southern Door High School in Brussels, she spent about a year and a half at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse before coming to Bellin College to be closer to her hometown of Sturgeon Bay.

"Ever since I was in middle school, I wanted to go into the healthcare field," she said. "At first I thought about being a dentist and then for a long time a physical therapist. It wasn't until after I left UWL that I realized I wanted to go into radiologic sciences."

Kayli credits several factors in her decision to make the move to Bellin College. A predominant one was that there was no waiting list for admission. Other factors included graduating with a bachelor's degree, "the amazing labs at the college allow students to practice anytime, and the outstanding job placement rate after college," she said.



Kayli Mallien

"I love the small campus we have at Bellin College. It makes the campus feel super comfortable. You get to know faculty and other students more than you would at a bigger institution," she said.

Bellin College's Health Sciences Resource Center, or HSRC, is a state-of-the-art simulation lab in the college's lower level that houses everything from a

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leadership skills through five semesters of learning, mentorships, networking, service projects, and self-discovery.

As a resident assistant, Amber has found passion and pride serving as a mentor and advisor to a group of 40 of her peers. “I truly enjoy building relationships and being a resource for them,” said Amber.

She further pursued her passion by developing a student-alumni mentorship program. The goal is to connect current students with WLC alumni/ae who work in their intended field. “Students can build a relationship while learning valuable professional skills that they can utilize in their future careers,” said Amber. “Having their mentors as resources while applying for internships or jobs will help minimize fear and stress and show students the importance of building their professional networks.”

In 2016, Amber was a part of WLC’s student-led team that was recognized as the winner in the KAPCO Charitable Challenge. The team’s project revolved around a statewide bike drive. They collected more than 260 bicycles that were then refurbished and sold to people in need of transportation. “My experience was humbling and the amount of people we touched through our efforts was nothing short of incredible,” said Amber, a business administration major who has been named to the Dean’s List multiple times.

With her May 2019 graduation on the horizon, Amber is even more confident she made the right choice. “Without the Wisconsin Grant, I wouldn’t have been able to attend WLC,” said Amber. “I have been given many opportunities to grow personally and to use my gifts to prepare me for a professional career.”

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birthing suite to health assessment labs. Students are allowed to utilize the labs anytime the campus is open — morning or night. The size of the campus also attracted Kayli. The campus is housed in one large building, enabling the students to be fully immersed in the experience.

“Transferring to Bellin College was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made,” she said.

Kayli has managed to stay involved in campus activities and clubs beyond just her coursework. She has participated in the Love Your Melon and the Ambassador Club along with being a member of Wisconsin Omega of Lambda Nu Medical Imaging Honor Society. Kayli had a unique opportunity to share her love of the healthcare field with her sister this last summer which has led to a dream for the future.

“My sister is in her second year at another university in Wisconsin and wants to go to medical school after she graduates,” she said. “We both worked together this past summer at Door County Medical Center, so it would be pretty cool if that happens again down the road with our careers!”

Kayli will be graduating in May 2019, but so far hasn’t chosen a specific field she’d like to work in. She enjoys general X-ray but is also excited to learn more about magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) this year, so her chosen modality will have to wait.

FACT OF THE MONTH

It is estimated that any increases in financial aid targeted at students below the 45th percentile of parental income would be self-financing in terms of future tax revenue.

Source:
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis’ Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute, “Optimal Need-Based Financial Aid,” 2018



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*
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