

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.

Wisconsin Achievers is published monthly by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), 122 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2723; 608.256.7761; mail@waicu.org.

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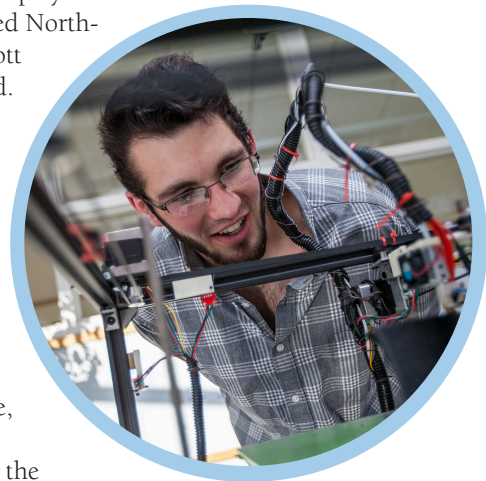
Northland senior finding success on and off the court

Thomas Whiting attended Ashland High School, where he played basketball. The 6'8" Northland College junior had not considered Northland College in his hometown of Ashland until Coach Scott Sorensen approached him. "I'm glad he did," Thomas said. "The academics are top-notch and the cost is cut down due to scholarships."

Thomas qualified for and received the Wisconsin Grant. He also received the Robert and Debbie Cervenka Scholarship, a full scholarship from Northland College for northern Wisconsin and rural students, which covers tuition and fees.

Thomas is an engineering student and a dual sport athlete, playing basketball and soccer. In 2017, he was given an UMAC All-Conference Honorable Mention and named to the UMAC All-Defensive Team.

In other words, he keeps busy. "I wouldn't have my college experience any other way," he said. He displays his strong work ethic and spirit of having fun both on and off the court. Thomas taught himself 3D printing in his spare time. This equipment led to the establishment of his own, local business,



Thomas Whiting

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Future business leader flourishes thanks to the Wisconsin Grant

David Wilson is a sophomore at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) majoring in business administration with an emphasis in finance and marketing. David, from Pardeeville, Wisconsin, credits the Wisconsin Grant as a key factor in his ability to afford his college education. He said, "I am in a financial position where every bit of supplemental aid makes all the difference, which is why I am so thankful to be a recipient of the Wisconsin Grant. Through the grant and other resources, including support from the college itself, I am able to finance the education that is pushing me to reach my highest potential as a student, a member of the community, and as a citizen of Wisconsin."

David, a graduate of Lakeside Lutheran High School in Lake Mills, elected to attend WLC because he saw an opportunity for his outgoing personality to flourish on a small campus. He is very active in the WLC campus community, serving on the Student Senate and as an Ambassador Club tour guide. He is a member of the college choir, chamber choir, Improv Troupe, and Standard Operating Procedure, a men's *cappella* group.

He said, "whether it be playing frisbee in the Quad, doing homework with friends, or going to choir practice, I am always up to something. I have seen



David Wilson

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supporting other local businesses.

In the summer of 2016, he worked as a private 3D printing contractor under the employment of Larson-Juhl Framing in Ashland. “My job was to take the picture frame designs they would send me and reverse engineer the measurements to come up with a custom piece for each unique picture frame they manufacture at the Ashland plant,” he said. “I then print the parts on my personal 3D printer which I bought as a kit and assembled on my own.”

This 3D picture frame holder, created by Thomas and his brother and partner, Zach, saved the company money in reduced setup time.

“The plant manager did some rough math and came to the conclusion that if our part takes the machinists five minutes to set up instead of the customary fifteen-to-thirty minutes, Larson-Juhl can run six-to-twelve million more feet through the plant under ideal conditions in one year.”

This past summer, he started his own 3D printing business. He is now into his final year of undergraduate studies.

“As with any student athlete, the number one thing we look for is character,” said Coach Scott Sorensen. “Thomas has all of it—he has high character, is academic-achieving, and he has grown into one of the best basketball players in the league.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

41 percent of students with an associates degree go on to earn a bachelors degree within six years.

Source: Certificate/ Associate Pathways Snapshot Report, National Student Loan Clearinghouse, June 2016

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myself grow as a person. I’ve been given opportunities to step into leadership positions and gain valuable experience.”

He already has experience working with an area business. “I was fortunate enough to start an internship with mkCellular a month after arriving on campus,” David said. “WLC put me in contact with them, and it has been a great experience ever since. This internship has allowed me to learn the ins and outs of a successful business. The skills gained here will help me to be successful in my future endeavors.”

David acknowledges that the relationships he has developed at WLC, along with the support system of faculty, friends, and pastors, are helping him reach his goals. It was the potential for these relationships that drew him to WLC. He said, “I came from a small high school and appreciated the close community and relationships I developed there, and I wanted that to carry over to college. I also chose WLC based on the values the campus adheres to as it develops respected, ethical, and hard-working graduates.”

The Wisconsin Grant enables David to attend Wisconsin Lutheran College. Upon graduation, he wants to harness his entrepreneurial spirit and start his own tech company. David believes WLC is preparing him for that moment and stated, “I feel that my education will have shaped me with good values and a strong work ethic to make not only me, but those I lead, excel at what we do!”

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