

About Wisconsin Grants

The twenty-three private, or independent, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 60,000 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. Fully one-third of the low-income students who apply for the Wisconsin Grants are turned away every year for lack of funds. 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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Campus Activities Help MSOE Student Become Leader

The grass definitely does not grow under Marissa Parent's feet. Marissa grew up in Dodgeville and is a senior at Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), completing a degree in management information systems. While at MSOE, Marissa has applied the skills from her major towards facilitating a wide variety of student activities, making it her mission to help fellow students get involved. The Wisconsin Grant, together with assistance from MSOE, has provided Marissa with the support she needs so that she can focus more of her

time on her academic and career priorities.

"The summer after my senior year in high school my mom and I took a tour and explored the MSOE campus. For the both of us, it just felt right and where I belonged," said Marissa. When she made the decision to attend MSOE and learned that she would receive the Wisconsin Grant she said, "It was comforting to know that my mom and I had help to pay for tuition."



Marissa Parent, a senior at MSOE, is majoring in management information systems.

Marissa has immersed herself in the MSOE community. She

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Student finds right fit at Cardinal Stritch University

Logan Kassner feels blessed that Cardinal Stritch University became a part of his life at the time it did. For him, the University has been a source of unending support and a place where he could grow and flourish while dealing with a series of difficult life events. Having to pay for college on his own, Logan feels grateful for the opportunities that the Wisconsin Grant has enabled.

Logan's life shifted dramatically due to unexpected challenges when he was in his final years at Kewaunee High School. A divorce,

bankruptcy, foreclosure and terminal illness strained his family and cast a shadow



Logan Kassner of Kewaunee is majoring in communications.

upon his future outlook. Amid his family's financial

and personal crises, Logan held fast to his college dreams and toured campuses at various Wisconsin universities. Deep down, he knew a private school with small classes and close interactions with faculty members would best fit his learning style.

"I looked at a lot of schools, and it came down to what I could do," said Logan, who played three sports in high school, danced for 14 years, and achieved above-average grades. "I hoped to play a sport, do my studies, and connect with my Catholic faith. At Stritch, I can intertwine all three."

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has served on the Student Leadership council, volunteered as a commencement assistant, and held the office of vice president of the Student Union Board, which is responsible for planning campus events for students. “Being a part of campus life and planning events for everyone on campus makes me feel like I am an integral member of our university community,” said Marissa. “Student Union Board means a great deal to me. My experiences have allowed me to come out of my shell and bloom as a student leader. I truly believe that Student Union Board has the power to boost morale considerably among the MSOE student body. The organization enables students to have a meaningful impact on the campus.”

In February, Marissa and the Student Union Board partnered with Sigma Phi Delta, Society of Women Engineers and the Photography Club

to hold a Red Carpet Formal dance to benefit the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. It was one of the most successful and well-attended student events at MSOE. “I am glad to have made a difference. I would not be as involved or engaged in MSOE’s campus without having been given the opportunity to learn leadership.”

Marissa’s education and leadership experience at MSOE are already paying off. Last spring, she began an internship at Rockwell Automation in the information technology department and was immediately given core responsibilities on her project involving a migration from one software platform to another. After graduation in May, Marissa will work full-time at Rockwell Automation in a leadership development program, which is a rotational early-career program dedicated to fostering leadership within Rockwell’s IT organization.



Wisconsin spends less than one percent of its taxpayer-supported budget on student financial aid.

Source: 2013 Wisconsin Act 20

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Stritch offered that and much more. “I just felt there was something special for me here from the moment I walked in the door,” Logan said. “I’ve had a lot of things happen, and the nicest thing about Stritch is that they gave me a chance.” Upon choosing Stritch, Logan seized upon the opportunities that the university offered. He applied for and was accepted into the Franciscan Servant Scholars (FSS), an education, formation and scholarship program that allows students to integrate their faith with their academic and career interests. Logan also accepted an invitation to participate in the Leadership, Development, Reflection and

Service (LDRS) initiative, a living-learning community designed for students who are the first in their family to attend college, are students of color, or come from low-income households. Now in his sophomore year, Logan is building his leadership skills across campus through serving as a mentor for LDRS, sprinting for the track team, and pursuing a major in communications. “There are so many different cultures and backgrounds,” Logan said. “Everyone’s like a big family.”

Logan recognizes the value of the Wisconsin Grant and the financial support from Cardinal Stritch. “Grants are such gifts and provide an opportunity

for me to make myself better,” Logan reflected. “I have a responsibility to make the most of this time at Stritch. I wouldn’t be going to college if not for such generous financial aid.”

Now, as Logan again faces serious health challenges, he reflects upon the importance of having the freedom to choose a school that provides for all his needs. Stritch’s community is supporting him through his latest crisis and ensuring he can continue his studies while managing his life issues. “Stritch surely has shaped me into the man I am today and continues to be a support,” Logan said.

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

