

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 State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, now known as Wisconsin Grants, 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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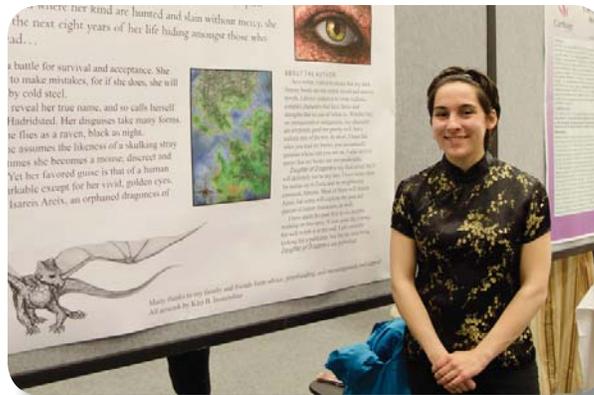
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Carthage College transfer student dreams of making a better future

Kira Immordino has made it her mission to become the “Bill Gates of environmentalism.”

As a junior from Trevor, Wisconsin at Carthage College in Kenosha, Kira has a double major in environmental science and Asian studies and a double minor in biology and Chinese. Although she is studying four diverse fields, Kira plans to blend her



Kira Immordino of Trevor is double majoring in environmental science and Asian studies.

studies cohesively into a lifetime career.

and conservation that would allow her to travel to Asia to

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After college, she plans both to work in her field and to go to graduate school and continue her studies in either ecology or biology. With help from the Wisconsin Grant, she is working toward a career in ecology

Wisconsin Grant allows non-trad Marian student to return for degree

The inspiration to earn a post-secondary degree comes to individuals at different times in life, especially for working adults. For Marian University senior, Daniel Krieser, the Wisconsin Grant was the “tipping point” in his decision to return to school to earn a degree.

“With a wife and three kids, I was reluctant to come back to earn a degree,” said Daniel. “Earning a degree is a significant investment of



Because of the Wisconsin Grant, Daniel Krieser is achieving his career goals at Marian University.

time and money. Without financial aid, a lot of students – especially adult students – aren’t able to make the investment. For me, the Wisconsin Grant truly made a difference.”

student would be difficult, but what I enjoy most about Marian is the feeling of acceptance – I can share my life experience in the classroom, see that those past

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As an adult student, Daniel chose Marian University because of its welcoming community and personalized approach to teaching and learning.

“I thought that being a nontraditional

Kira Immordino continued from page 1

help those in poverty. Kira wants these firsthand experiences so she can achieve her dream goal of being an angel investor to green companies and scientists, to further their work in ecology.

While studying at Carthage, she has had many memorable moments. One of her favorites was working with Mahone Middle School students in Kenosha to build a rain garden for the school. She was inspired to see the students so engaged in the process. The experience ended up being enlightening, as well as fun, for both the Mahone students and Kira.

Another major highlight was being recognized for her first novel, "Daughter of Dragons." The book earned Kira honorable mention for the Research and Creativity Award. She was recognized during the college's annual Celebration of Scholars in May.

The book, which she hopes to have published,

is based on Kira's fascination with dragons and fantasy books. It combines the two interests into one book about a dragoness disguising herself as a human to get revenge. Although writing is not involved directly with her studies, it is a passion for her nonetheless. Kira wants to continue writing fantasy books, as well as scientific informational books.

It is because of the Wisconsin Grant, as well as other financial aid awards, that Kira is able to have these "highlight" moments at Carthage — or to attend at all. A transfer student, she said that she is especially grateful because, had it not been for her financial aid, she would not have been able to afford to study where she wanted.

Although her ambitions are high, the challenge does not discourage her. She describes her life motto as "If you have a passion, go for it."

She's definitely going for it.



The graduation rate for minority students at WAICU colleges and universities is 12.9% higher than at UW 4-year Colleges.

Source: IPEDS Data Center Fall 2007 cohort

Daniel Krieser continued from page 1

experiences apply in the classroom and in my future," said Daniel.

Not only are "real world" experiences from the past an integral part of a Marian degree, but real life experiences are part of what takes place in the university curriculum itself. A forensic science major and chemistry and psychology minor, Daniel explains, "my passion for learning was only enhanced through the applied experiences that Marian offers to its students."

Apart from engaging in the classroom, Daniel, from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin,

enjoys gaining hands-on experiences at Marian's Kuber Center, a dedicated laboratory space that features two classrooms, a computer laboratory with Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and photography software, digital microscopes and several areas for "mock" crime scene analysis.

"Marian has an applied approach to learning, and the Kuber Center allows forensic science majors to conduct laboratory experiments," said Daniel. "Not all forensic science programs have dedicated laboratory space. The Center has helped me grow and learn

how to apply my knowledge following graduation."

With graduation anticipated for May 2015, Daniel looks forward to using his degree and inspiring other nontraditional students to see the value in earning a degree. "Going back to school wasn't just for me, but it showed my family that they, too, can achieve their potential," said Daniel. "My kids also are excited about learning and often tell me how they are going to college when they are older, mostly because they know the impact that earning a four-year degree has had on me."

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 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

