

About Wisconsin Grants

The twenty-four private, or independent, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating nearly 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.

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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Wisconsin Lutheran College student excels in class and on court

Randall Strutz, a junior at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC), appreciates the opportunity he has to receive a quality liberal arts education, thanks to the Wisconsin Grant. Randall, of Sturtevant, Wisconsin, says, "The Wisconsin Grant allows me to see servant leadership in action, as I am surrounded on campus by individuals who encourage me in my education and in my leadership development."

During his three years at WLC, Randall has been a

member of the Warriors basketball team and serves as a student-employment team leader in WLC's Recreation



Randall Strutz on the court.

Complex. He was named to the Dean's List in both semesters of the 2014-2015 academic year. An alumnus

of Shoreland Lutheran High School, Randall selected WLC, in part, due to academic reputation and to play basketball alongside his brother, who was also a member of the basketball team prior to graduating in 2013.

"I was initially interested in the opportunities WLC offered to those looking to go into the medical field," says Randall. "Within my first year, I volunteered, alongside other members of the WLC men's and women's basketball teams, at a Special Olympics basketball program through Milwaukee Public Schools.

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Carroll University junior and history buff is pursuing her dream

Melanie Basile was drawn to Carroll University because of its many strong program options. "I initially came to Carroll for the nursing program because it is one of the highest-ranking programs in the state of Wisconsin." But the Milwaukee native and Wisconsin Grant recipient quickly realized that her greatest passion was in teaching. "I realized that a much better fit for me was teaching because I love children," said Melanie. "So I changed my major to elementary and middle school education, with a

minor in Social Studies. I am very excited about my future."



Melanie Basile is looking forward to teaching.

One reason this class of 2017 graduate is excited is because she plans to stay in Wisconsin and teach history.

As long as she can remember, Melanie has been drawn to history and one of her dreams is to also work at a museum. "With an education degree and specialization in history, I will have two potential jobs I am engrossed in, and I love the concept of that," she said.

The idea of pursuing her dream initially seemed impossible to Melanie, who wondered how she would find the financial support to attend college. Her major struggle was grasping the concept she could afford it. With no prior experience

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I discovered my love of working with children with special needs. I knew at that moment that teaching was the right path for me.”

Randall is now majoring in Elementary Education and Special Education and plans to become a special education teacher.

Reflecting on his first three years at WLC, Randall says, “Playing for the basketball team has allowed me to create friendships that extend far beyond the court. Some of best experiences have occurred alongside my teammates. I’ve learned many life lessons as both an athlete and student. After injuring my leg this past year, I discovered the value of patience and perseverance through unexpected trials. I am thankful for the support I receive from WLC’s faculty and staff.”

Randall is not the only member of the Strutz

family to benefit from the Wisconsin Grant. He is the third sibling to attend WLC while receiving the grant, with a fourth enrolling this fall.

“The Wisconsin Grant has provided my family the opportunity to receive a quality education at a college we love, while growing in our development each day,” Randall concludes. “I have witnessed my siblings graduate from WLC and model servant leadership in their professions. I have observed them doing great things within their fields, and I am excited to do the same. I am grateful to have received this opportunity, because I know that WLC is preparing me not just for a future vocation as a special education teacher, but in other areas of my life as well. For these reasons, and so many more, my family and I are incredibly thankful for the Wisconsin Grant and Wisconsin Lutheran College.”



WAICU member financial support to students through campus employment opportunities has more than tripled since 1999, from \$1.7 to \$5.3 million.

Source – HEAB reports - Wisconsin State Student Financial Aid Data

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with financial aid, Melanie was grateful for the support she received from the Wisconsin Grant and from Carroll University. “I was so very lucky and happy to receive financial aid because without it, this would not have been possible. Paying for a college education would have been difficult for me to accomplish alone, but with financial help, the tuition was manageable. Now, I know I can earn my degree,” said the enthusiastic student.

Melanie holds two jobs on campus, one as a resident assistant, and the other as an ambassador for the admissions office. She reflects back to the day following

her freshman orientation when she was immediately approached and told to apply as an ambassador. “The person who chased me down thought I had a great personality after observing my interactions with my peers. She concluded I would be great for the job,” she recalls.

Recently, Melanie was promoted to weekend supervisor in the admissions office, testimony to her hard work and dedication to the job. To supplement this income, Melanie sought the position of resident assistant because it reduced the cost of room and board. Beyond the financial support, Melanie has appreciated

how both her resident assistant position and her admissions work offer meaningful connections to students. Melanie reflected that she absolutely loves both of her campus jobs because she gets to interact with people. “I feel like I play a significant role in both of my campus positions, and that I have the opportunity to positively impact people,” said Melanie.

With the financial support she has received from the Wisconsin Grant and Carroll University in order to attend college, Melanie is on a certain path to continue to have a positive effect on people throughout her career and her life.

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*
 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*

