

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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Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Rebecca Larson
Senior VP/Advocacy
Carole Trone, Ph.D.
Senior VP/Educational Services,
Editor
Kathy Dutter
Coordinator/Ed Services
Assistant Editor

Injuries open eyes to opportunities for Carroll University's David Rader

Due in part to assistance from the Wisconsin Grant, David Rader, a Carroll University sophomore from Green Bay, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in exercise science. The Green Bay native was a star athlete in junior high and high school who unexpectedly transitioned from being a key player on the football field, to becoming key support on the sidelines for injured football players. David's new role still makes him part of the team, but in a way he never considered until his sophomore year in high school. "As the team

captain, I made first team all-conference, first team all-



Carroll University student and Green Bay native David Rader

region, and offensive lineman of the year in the Fox River Classic Conference," said David. "At a time when the

team achieved much success, I suffered many injuries from a torn ACL and a labrum in my shoulder, to a neck injury and dislocated kneecap."

The injuries were not only unfortunate because they decreased his mobility, but also because

athletic scholarship offers were pouring in for David

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Charged with caring for her siblings, Marquette student focuses education on helping others

Because of the Wisconsin Grant, Milwaukee native Austiana Jackson became the first in her family to attend college. Halfway through her time at Marquette University, she assumed the daunting responsibility of becoming the sole care provider for her four younger siblings.

Support and sympathy from Marquette professors kept Austiana on track with her studies. Now a junior studying social welfare and justice and sociology, Austiana overcame grim circumstances and has turned her focus on helping others.



Marquette University junior Austiana Jackson, of Milwaukee, is studying social welfare and justice and sociology.

Austiana hopes eventually to work for a nonprofit organization; she credits

the caring community at Marquette and especially the Educational Opportunity Program for her success. "Marquette is a place where I feel comfortable and have a strong support system," said Austiana.

For the past five years, Austiana has worked with a nonprofit leadership development organization, PEARLS, which serves at-risk, primarily African-American and Latina adolescent girls in Milwaukee. PEARLS helps young women achieve in school, avoid teen pregnancy,

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to attend college; an expense his family could not afford without assistance. At the top of his game, he had a hard decision to make: to continue to play football despite the injuries or pursue another path to college. David made the hard choice to stop playing and to focus on his health. “I still wanted to be part of the sport in a meaningful way, so I chose to pursue a career in physical therapy,” he explains.

Fortunately, David was still able to attend college thanks to a financial aid package he received that included the Wisconsin Grant and support from Carroll. His inspiration to study exercise science was sparked by the physical therapists and rehabilitation workers who helped him recover from his injuries.

The future physical therapist is active in school, participating in the Sports Medicine, Physical Therapy and Outdoor Adventure Clubs. Every day, he and a group of friends also hit the gym at

4 p.m. to push each other to new benchmarks. “This is my major, and it’s important for me to be good at what I do and to truly understand it,” said the future Class of 2017 graduate. “My goal is to be a great physical therapist who knows different movements, and the ins and outs of how the body works.”

David also works on campus as an admissions ambassador who gives tours to prospective students, showing them all the great things Carroll offers. He said he enjoys when students approach him on campus and say, “You influenced my decision to attend Carroll University.”

Without the financial assistance from the Wisconsin Grant, David would not be following his dream to passionately give back what was given to him. He plans to enter the physical therapy doctoral program at Carroll after his 2017 graduation.



The number of students applying to WAICU members, a Wisconsin Technical College, or a UW System college or university, whose expected family contribution towards their higher education is \$0, increased from 36,425 in 2007-08 to 91,521 in 2012-13, an increase of 152%.

Source: HEAB

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and use their personal power to achieve their goals and dreams. PEARLS became Austiana’s “second mother,” motivating her to attend college and follow her dreams. “I will never call my job ‘work’ because I love what I do,” she says.

In addition to caring for her siblings, attending school full-time and working part-time, Austiana still makes time to help live out the Jesuit tradition of serving others. She has worked with Marquette’s Allies of the Club, which collaborates with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee. She also assists the Marquette community service program, where she

plans and conducts community service events for Marquette students while also advising students interested in community service opportunities.

With the added responsibility of being accountable for her younger siblings, Austiana continues to depend on the financial support from the Wisconsin Grant, and other support from Marquette, which enables her to stay close to home and attend the school that best meets her long-term career goals.

“The Wisconsin Grant makes it possible for me to have a Marquette education and

the Marquette experience,” Austiana says. “It gives me the experience of meeting new people, learning professional skills and building strong relationships.”

Knowing how a supportive and engaged community can make all the difference, Austiana plans to pursue a career working with students struggling with issues, such as lack of family support, lack of resources and unhealthy relationships.

“One day, I would like to open my own nonprofit for boys focused on etiquette, college-readiness, jobs, professional skills and more,” said Austiana.

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

