

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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Silver Lake freshman sets goal to help others while also helping herself

Silver Lake College freshman Shamir Jackson isn't the first in her family to attend college. However, she is determined to be the first to finish college and graduate with a four-year degree. The 19-year-old Milwaukee native is able to focus her attention on her nursing major thanks to the generosity of Silver Lake financial support and the Wisconsin Grants. "The grants helped me in a major way because I have a mom who's a single parent and takes care of two younger children," said



Shamir Jackson of Milwaukee is a nursing student at Silver Lake College.

Shamir, the oldest of three siblings. "The grants helped me get through my first year of college." Shamir chose nursing not only because she enjoys caring for others,

but because she wants to make sure she can take care of herself as well. "It's a good profession to go into. I'll always have a job," Shamir said, citing a generation of Baby Boomers who are requiring more healthcare as they age.

Shamir's introduction to nursing came early. Shamir laughingly recalls how she received a little plastic nursing kit as a girl and pretended to listen to her cousin's heartbeat with her toy stethoscope. She

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Wisconsin Grant helps Beloit senior achieve her dreams

Graduation will likely be a bittersweet occasion for Beloit College senior and Wisconsin Grant recipient Dominique Bodoh. "Beloit has changed my perspective in a way that I know it wouldn't have been if I were anywhere else," she says. The rewards of Dominique's Beloit College education first began with the Wisconsin Grant, which helped to make it all possible.

Dominique spent her early childhood in the village of Keshena on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Northern Wisconsin. This connected Dominique with her mother's Native American



Beloit College senior Dominique Bodoh is majoring in anthropology.

roots and began Dominique's current interests in cultural identity and origins. By the time Dominique reached school age, her family relocated closer to Green Bay in order to benefit from the strong educational opportunities there.

Dominique's path through college has been a unique one, combining multiple disciplines and interests with extracurricular involvement. She is set to graduate in May with a major in anthropology and three minors—in biology, French, and classics. The faculty mentoring and career guidance that Dominique has received at Beloit have helped her develop a plan for uniting these seemingly distinct disciplines into one career path.

"I want to be a forensic anthropologist," she says. "I want to look at bones and

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continued to be drawn into the healthcare field by her mother, who works in scheduling at a Milwaukee hospital, and her aunt, who is a nurse practitioner in Milwaukee. “She’s an inspiration,” Shamir said of her aunt. “She had two kids, she needed work. She went into nursing to support the family, but fell in love with the profession.”

It was in her sophomore year at Messmer High School in Milwaukee that Shamir decided on her career path. In the college search process, Shamir knew that she wanted to attend college close to home, yet wanted to have the experience of living on campus and interacting with new people. The nursing program at Silver Lake College, in partnership with Bellin College in Green Bay, offered the optimal living and learning opportunity. She also was drawn to its size. The classes are small and the teachers and fellow students are always available to help her

when she needs it. “It’s easier to concentrate on my studies in this environment,” she said.

The personalized attention at Silver Lake helped Shamir even before she enrolled, when a Silver Lake advisor that Shamir contacted urged her to earn her Certified Nursing Assistant certificate. Shamir did just that while she was still in high school and gained valuable clinical experience working in a nursing home. It helped assure her she was making the right career choice. “I like working with people, helping the elderly, taking care of the sick,” she said.

Shamir is looking forward to completing her studies and the opportunities that will lie beyond graduation. “I like that I will be doing something for the community. I feel good knowing that I’ll be helping those who need special attention.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

May 29 is Wisconsin’s birthday (1848). Before Wisconsin even became a state, Beloit College, Carroll University, Carthage College, Nashotah House, and Lawrence University were founded. These WAICU members are the five oldest colleges in the state.

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figure out how a person lived, how they died, what their identity was while they were alive.” She hopes her fluency in French will one day allow her to work in France and that the Ancient Greek she picked up in her classics courses will assist her in learning medical terminology.

During her time at Beloit, Dominique has played for the tennis team, served as a representative on Beloit Student Congress, and been an active member of Kappa Delta sorority. Last academic year, her interest in biology and language led her to French Polynesia for a memorable application of her academic interests into a vividly real term abroad.

“I was on a sailboat going through the South Pacific, going from island to island on a sailing research vessel,” she says. “It was very mentally and physically straining because we had classes every day regardless of the weather. Even when there were six-foot high waves and gale force winds, we still had class below deck.”

Thanks to the preparation and support that Beloit provided, Dominique mustered the necessary stamina and resources to meet this test of weather, determination, and commitment on the high seas. Dominique’s classroom learning became critical context for this real world

encounter. “Beloit gave me the open mind to be able to consider how people’s perspectives on their own culture might vary,” she says.

Since being back on campus, Dominique hasn’t wasted any time preparing for her next steps. At present, she has applied to 10 graduate programs that would grant her a Ph.D. in forensic anthropology. She has big plans.

“My goal is to become a state forensic anthropologist,” she says, “or become the forensic anthropologist at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. That’s my dream career.”

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*

