

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.

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 Grant student thrives at Lakeland

Lakeland College senior Jenny Kjin enjoyed growing up in busy Madison and attending East High School with 1,500 other students. As Jenny turned her thoughts towards college, she was drawn to the peaceful, rural campus setting of Lakeland College, which has fewer than 900 residential students. Jenny

found Lakeland to be a place where her hopes and dreams for a college education could



Lakeland senior Jenny Kjin of Madison.

be realized, thanks in part to the Wisconsin Grant.

College once seemed unattainable for Jenny, who was diagnosed with severe dyslexia in second grade. She was told she might never read past an elementary school level. She persevered and is thriving at Lakeland College. The small class sizes and personal attention at Lakeland provide the ideal setting for her educational experience. Jenny has earned straight

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St. Norbert student preserves by turning adversity into dreams

Stevens Point native Nathan Klesmith's talents on the football field once seemed to be the only sure way to afford college. A torn hamstring on the field ended those hopes. With the possibility of an athletic scholarship gone, Nathan didn't know what to do: "When I saw the price tag, I thought, there's no way this is going to happen." Thanks in large

measure to the Wisconsin Grant, Nathan is pursuing his newly-found interest



St. Norbert student Nathan Klesmith of Stevens Point.

in sports medicine at St. Norbert College.

"I toured St. Norbert kind of on a whim during Spring Break of my junior year and loved it!" Without the possibility of an athletic scholarship, attending any college looked out of the picture. Nathan did not come from a wealthy family, but he finds inspiration to keep persevering from his mother. "My mom is the first person in her family to go to college, so she's my model for how I should care about

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“As” for the past two consecutive years. She is completing a double major in nonprofit management and communication while connecting in multiple ways to the campus community.

The senior is the past president of Lakeland’s chapter of Habitat for Humanity. She also served as a student ambassador, editor-in-chief of the *Spectrum* video yearbook, and resident assistant. Last school year, Jenny was named Lakeland’s “Communication Student of the Year”. She twice earned the distinction as “Resident Assistant of the Year” and is listed in “*Who’s Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges*”.

“I’m very comfortable here,” says Jenny. “All of my professors know me on a first-name basis. They care about me. I prefer the small class sizes Lakeland College offers and professors who care about me as a person. That small, personal touch you cannot receive at larger schools.”

Lakeland’s career development resources and internship opportunities have developed further Jenny’s skills. Among her internships have been opportunities at the Dane County Humane Society, the Sheboygan County Humane Society, and Double Vision Films. “My dream job is helping animals or people with disabilities,” she says. “I’m a people person, and I just cannot imagine sitting in a cubicle for eight hours every day. My big thing is giving back to the community, helping those in need.”

Jenny certainly has come a long way since being diagnosed with dyslexia. It will always remain with her. “Yes, it’s still there. But I don’t see it as a hindrance,” comments Jenny. Thanks to the personalized support at Lakeland College and the educational opportunities provided through the Wisconsin Grant, Jenny is realizing her dreams.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Students attending Wisconsin’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities have a 70% higher chance of earning a bachelor’s degree in four years than at public institutions in Wisconsin.

Source: IPEDS Data Center, 2013 data

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my education.” She worked full-time while attending school full-time. “She recently obtained her master’s in nursing, which is amazing, considering that this past January she was diagnosed with breast cancer,” explains Nathan.

Following her footsteps, Nathan’s hard work in high school earned him a Trustee Scholarship from St. Norbert and a competitive multicultural leadership award. “But it still left a lot of money between that and paying the bills,” says Nathan. The Wisconsin Grant provided the critical difference. “I could not have

any of this if it were not for the Wisconsin Grant. It really made it possible for me to afford a great college education. I do not have a car, I do not have things, but no one can take an education away from a person. And that this college stands for — *communio* — the people I’m with are the most important things I have,” states Nathan.

Nathan embraces all there is to his education, including tutoring at local elementary schools where, with his Spanish-speaking background, he especially connects to the Hispanic

population. He participates in the honors program, is a student ambassador in the admission office, works two jobs, and volunteers at a food pantry. Looking beyond college, Nathan hopes to use his personal experience and his education to help future young athletes. “If I could have prevented my injury, I would have. I want to learn to keep others from having to go through what I went through,” says Nathan.

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*

