

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.

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The Wisconsin Grant allows Marquette junior to pay it forward

Peter Berg, a junior in Marquette University's Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, strives to put others before himself in all he does. When looking at colleges, it was important for him to see similar values represented on campus. "A main attractor to Marquette was the emphasis on faith, leadership, service and mission to 'be the difference,'" Peter recalled. Peter was drawn to the many opportunities he saw to become engaged and contribute to the campus community at Marquette. The Wisconsin Grant and generous financial aid from Marquette has allowed Peter to fulfill his college goals.

The Brookfield native is furthering his knowledge of community and leadership by pursuing a double major in sociology and psychology. When not focused on classwork, Peter finds time to be an active member of the Marquette community. As a resident assistant in Humphrey Hall, Peter is able to connect with students on a deeper level and give back to the university as a leader in an important but often tiring role.

There are many ways to connect with other Marquette students and the greater Milwaukee community at Marquette,



Peter Berg is a double major in sociology and psychology.

and Peter has become involved with many of them. Peter works in Campus Ministry, a reflection of his

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Ripon College student is stepping forward with new dreams



Ripon senior RaeAnn Brixius is a Tomahawk native.

Coming from the rural community of Tomahawk and forging a new path as a first-generation college

student, RaeAnn Brixius '16 faced many challenges, both financial and in navigating a course towards her career goals.

"My dad is a welder, my mom is a realtor and, with the poor market, she has a lot of really small sales," Brixius says. "She never knows when she is going to get paid in a month, so it's kind of stressful. I didn't know what I wanted to do, but I did know I wanted more than what a high school degree could offer, and I like learning."

Brixius is interested in politics and knew a college education would provide the foundation she needed. Ripon College and the Wisconsin Grant made it possible through scholarship and grant support.

"It's a pretty significant grant, so it has helped me to be able to stay here," Brixius says. "I wasn't going to come back to Ripon because of the money, but Student Support Services has been really, really beneficial in helping me find more scholarship opportunities."

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commitment to the ministry's mission, "to form students to live with conscience and courage." As a volunteer with Marquette's Midnight Run, Peter serves with fellow students in Milwaukee's area meal programs and shelters. The Campus Renew program affords Peter the opportunity to build his sense of Christian community with fellow students who also seek the group's mission to "live more justly." Peter has excelled in his study of classic cultures and civilizations and his achievements have been recognized by admission into the Eta Sigma Phi Latin Honor Society, where he is treasurer.

"Peter is an absolute blessing in our office, bringing laughter and enthusiasm that is contagious," said Ann Hilbert, administrative assistant in Campus Ministry. "It's impossible to be in a bad mood when he's around."

For Peter, the Marquette degree is not only a gateway into the working world, but also a testament to his impact on the broader community. He will pursue a master's degree in higher education upon graduation.

"My goal is to one day to pursue a career at Marquette, so I can pay it forward to students on this campus just as the Marquette community has done for me," Peter said.

"I thank God every day for those who help me pay for this education," Peter said. "My parents always taught me to keep God at the center of my life and put others before myself. That is what I plan to do with the education I receive here."

FACT OF THE MONTH

89.5% of private, nonprofit college graduates were either gainfully employed or in graduate school within 6 months of graduation, compared to 73.4% at public institutions.

Source - First Destinations for the College Class of 2014 National Association of Colleges and Employers

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Brixius is majoring in politics and government and psychology, with a minor in religion. Because she is from a small town, she appreciates the smaller setting and homey feel that Ripon College offers over larger schools. She is pleased with the close relationships that the smaller setting allows with faculty and friends.

The fact that Ripon offers more advanced opportunities sooner than many larger schools was a surprise, she says. "As a freshman, I was interning at the Green Lake County Correctional Facility through Ripon's psychology department. That was really cool for me."

Brixius reflected on a recent conversation with a friend who is a psychology major

at a state university and has had minimal research opportunities. "When I told her that I've already conducted three experiments through Ripon's psychology program and another one through the politics and government department, she was surprised. She doesn't get that kind of hands-on experience or research exposure at her school."

Brixius says she likes the research process, the patience it takes and data collection. "It takes a long time, but it's fun to see the results," she says. "What can we get out of this? Where can we go with this? In my first research project, I didn't find much of significance. It was kind of discouraging. But it's a good learning process and shows you what it can mean

for further research."

She also has taken advantage of several internships, including three years at the National Speech and Debate Association. Brixius conducts research for Assistant Professor of Politics and Government Henrik Schatzinger, including data collection and analysis. This summer, she is looking forward to an internship in Oshkosh.

The Ripon College senior is already anticipating graduate school, noting that all of her internship and research work is helping her to sort things out and determine a direction for her career. "My plan is to keep doing things like that and letting it go where it goes," she says.

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 Manitowish
- Viterbo University La Crosse
- Wisconsin Lutheran College Milwaukee

