

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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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

Green Bay native finds all he needs to excel at St. Norbert College

Green Bay native Brad Boockmeier never thought in his wildest dreams he would end up down the road, at St. Norbert College. Brad, a graduating senior at Green Bay Preble High School, assumed that a college so close to home couldn't offer all he was looking for in a college.

Brad's high school football coach was persistent, eventually persuading him to take the time to see what St. Norbert had to offer. Brad's



Brad Boockmeier is a star running back and high-achieving math major at St. Norbert College.

reaction to the campus visit? "I was blown away," marveled the St. Norbert senior.

"When I visited St. Norbert, I never realized how beautiful this campus is, but more

importantly, how happy and excited everyone is to be here," said Brad. "You hear about *communio*, but at St. Norbert it's not just a word, you feel it. There is a great energy on this campus," he added.

Brad assumed that the next challenge would be how to afford it. He is one of seven children, so the family budget is pulled in many directions. The financial aid support from St. Norbert, along with the

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Lakeland College student benefits from close campus connections

As a high school senior, Oostburg native Lexie Greenheck considered the full range of college options. Four years later and in the homestretch of completing her undergraduate studies, Lexie reflects on the outcome of that important decision and is grateful that she chose Lakeland College.

"I definitely have been able to take advantage of more learning and career-focused opportunities because I decided on a small, private, liberal arts college," says the Lakeland College senior. "It's easier to make learning and career connections here



Lakeland College senior Lexie Greenheck looks forward to starting her own business.

because of Lakeland's focus on the student. I've benefited from being part of such a close-knit community."

That close-knit community was there for Lexie during

her sophomore year, when her mother lost her job and her brother battled serious health issues. The college is accessible and affordable for Lexie, thanks to the Wisconsin Grant and generous financial aid from Lakeland.

Without that aid, it would be impossible for her to attend.

"The financial aid directors at Lakeland care about you as a person," Lexie said.

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Wisconsin Grant, has made it possible for him to afford a college education. Brad knows he has a role in this and has learned the lessons of pitching in. “When you come from a big family, you look for ways to help,” he noted. Brad works year-round for the facilities department on the St. Norbert campus to help pay for some of his college expenses. Brad also recognizes the importance of the Wisconsin Grant. “The Wisconsin Grant means a great deal to me because it means I can be at a place I belong,” he reflected.

Brad has taken full advantage of his time at St. Norbert. The mathematics major boasts a 3.84 GPA and serves as a mathematics teaching assistant (TA). He participates in the spiritual community on campus and loves the contemplative atmosphere inside the historic Old

St. Joseph Church on campus. Brad also makes time for his sports passion. The senior is a star running back on the Green Knights football team and wants to help lead the team this season to a repeat performance in the NCAA playoffs. He’s earned distinction as a two-time All-American decathlete and a second-team Academic All-America selection in track. The athlete was awarded All-American status at the 2015 NCAA Division III Outdoor Championship, finishing fifth in the decathlon with a school-record 6,709 points. In his final decathlete season, Brad has set the ambitious goal “to become a national champion in the decathlon.”

Brad’s busy life at St. Norbert includes planning past graduation. He is preparing to teach middle or high school math, as well as coaching following graduation in May, 2016.



In the 2013-14 academic year, WAICU members provided grants to 99% of all first-time full-time students. Grants make up about 75% of the average financial aid package awarded by WAICU colleges and universities.

Source: IPEDS, SFA 2013-14

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“When you first consider the cost of college, it’s kind of intimidating, but I was surprised by how responsive and affordable Lakeland actually is. Lakeland really considers a student’s needs and their family situation.”

Lexie has blossomed, excelling in her academic studies while playing on the women’s basketball team. She is completing a double major in business management and international business in four years, looking forward to her graduation next spring. Lakeland also has facilitated internship opportunities for Lexie. Her first internship was with the Artisan Cheese Exchange, which specializes in connecting cheesemakers with companies around the world. As an

intern, she gained experience as a global supply chain employee.

This past summer she completed her second internship, this one with the Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA) of America. She worked in merchandising for the PGA Championship, which was held at Whistling Straits in Kohler. Her work was both exciting and career-focused, as Lexie’s career goal is to own an athletic apparel store.

In addition to those internships, Lexie works as a product receiving clerk at Blackwolf Run Golf Course in Kohler and for the Lakeland College communication department, where she helps produce press releases and contributes to the

college’s athletics Facebook page, among other tasks. Lakeland College Director of Communication David Gallianetti quickly became a mentor and helped her make connections that led to her internships.

“I was surprised how close we became,” she says. “He’s more like a father figure to me. That’s how Lakeland is. You walk across campus here, and everybody asks how you’re doing, or how your basketball game went. People here care.

“It’s funny, because before I decided on Lakeland I thought I wanted to go somewhere else. My parents went here, and I wanted to be different. But I’m glad I chose Lakeland. It’s really a great fit.”

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*

