

## About Wisconsin Grants

*The twenty-four private, or independent, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without direct taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 57,000 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. 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 College nursing student aims to help children

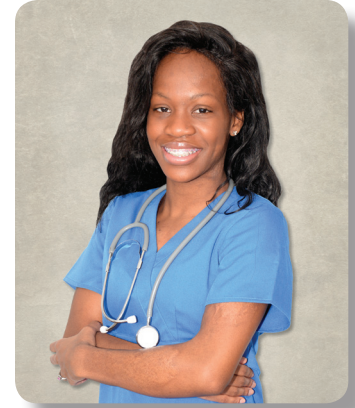
A life-changing experience can happen when you least expect it. For Atarah “Tye” Jones, that moment happened when she was only 3 years old.

Playing in the kitchen of her family’s Milwaukee home on May 11, 1998, a young Tye accidentally knocked a pot off the stove and was doused by the hot liquid inside. Her mother, Monica Miller, rushed her to the hospital. The second-degree burns inflicted upon much of Tye’s back, left arm, and neck necessitated a three-week stay in the hospital’s burn unit. “I don’t remember a lot because I was so young, but I do remember being in a

hospital and that the nurses were so nice and helpful,” Tye said. “That really stuck with me and inspired me. For a long time now, I’ve wanted to be a pediatric nurse in a burn unit and help children like those nurses helped me when I was little.”

Tye is pursuing that career goal at Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, where she’s entering her junior year and majoring in nursing.

The Wisconsin Board of Nursing voted unanimously in January to approve authorization for Silver Lake College to begin admitting students to its new four-year Bachelor of Science in



*Burn scars on her arm remind Atarah “Tye” Jones why she is pursuing nursing at Silver Lake College.*

Nursing program, which starts this fall.

“I was so happy when I heard that the nursing program

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## St. Norbert graduate succeeds at multi-tasking

Kyle Conniff juggled his way through four years at St. Norbert College. The Onalaska native was active in student clubs, held a job, and still managed to graduate in May, magna cum laude.

Kyle, a Native American, used his unique ability to juggle to help challenge himself. His time management skills allowed



*Kyle Conniff majored in math at St. Norbert College.*

him to take advantage of a variety of academic opportunities. He majored in math and minored in theology & religious studies during his time at St. Norbert.

Kyle’s involvement at St. Norbert went beyond the classroom. He was a math tutor for multicultural students, a resident assistant for student housing, and president of the school’s Math Club. He also spent a great deal of time helping to care for Abbey, the campus dog.

He will now pursue his master’s degree and was able to choose between three institutions that offered him full scholarships. He chose the university that best matched his desired course of study. He plans to

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**Atarah "Tye" Jones** continued from page 1

was approved here," Tye said. "It was just in time. Now I don't have to move anywhere else to get the degree I want. I want to spend the rest of my college years at Silver Lake."

Tye is able to pursue her chosen career thanks to a Wisconsin Grant and a Silver Lake College Achievement Grant. "She models dedication to the nursing profession through her hard work, both inside and outside of the classroom," said Brianna Neuser, director of the BSN program and Tye's academic advisor. "Tye seeks out professional experiences that afford her the opportunity to improve the health of our community."

Tye wants to support others, so she's forming an organization with the help of her mother called Flawless Scars. "I want to travel and talk to younger children who were burned. It

doesn't matter if you have scars or not, you're still flawless. And I want younger kids who were burned to know that, too," Tye said of Flawless Scars.

"She took a traumatic event in her life and made it into a positive," said her mother. "I have no doubt she chose the right profession. It's a great fit for her, and we need more nurses these days." Tye said she's excited to help fill the growing need for nurses and share her experiences with patients recovering from burn injuries.

"What happened with the burns affected me ... but it was in a good way," she said. "It pushed me to continue to go to school and help others.

"Everything happens for a reason. Our scars make us who we are today."



In a recent literacy assessment of adults age 16-34, those with a bachelor's degree scored 2 times higher than those with an associate's degree, over 3 times higher than those with a HS diploma, and 8 times higher than those who did not complete high school.

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, March 2016

**Kyle Conniff** continued from page 1

study NFL sports-injury patterns and the likeliness of recurrence, with the ultimate goal of making games safer.

"If they learn how much of a risk certain kinds of injury are to players, and what could hurt or help players, it could make an impact overall on sports," Kyle said.

As a first-generation college student, Kyle said he faced challenges in figuring out ways to fill out college financial aid forms and navigate student loans. Finding the money to afford a college education didn't come easy, but the Wisconsin Grant sure helped. "The Wisconsin Grant meant a great deal to me because I was at a place

where I belonged," said Kyle. Because of the Wisconsin Grant and financial aid from St. Norbert, he could devote more time to his studies and to the activities that rounded out his college experience.

Kyle spent lots of time engaging with others on the private college campus, where he was able to work closely with professors and instructors, and this helped him see that there is more to benefit from developing strong research skills than future income alone.

Part of his desire to help others comes from time spent researching the correlations between race, poverty, and

academic achievement in Brown County.

"I learned pretty much what you would expect – that race and poverty do affect academic achievement – but that it really is more because people of certain races are more likely to be poor, so it has more to do with poverty than what race a person is," he said. "That taught me there are ways to use research to make the world better, other than just for making money."

Kyle said his future goals are to live a fulfilling life and help other people along the way.

**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 University *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*

