

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. 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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Senior at Beloit College promotes engagement in hometown

Nadir Carlson called Beloit, Wisconsin his home before he enrolled in Beloit College where he has just started his senior year. He has kept himself quite busy double majoring in political science and sociology.

During his high school years, Nadir considered other colleges, but decided that Beloit was the best fit for him. "I chose Beloit because the idea of pursuing my education where I am from was really appealing," he says. "Beloit also creates a welcoming environment where we can learn, and, at the same time, not take ourselves or those around us too seriously." With

the help of Wisconsin Grant funding, Nadir has been able to concentrate on his academic,



Nadir Carlson is a political science & sociology major at Beloit College.

personal and professional growth by limiting the amount of stress related to financing his college education.

When he first started his studies at Beloit, Nadir became a Student Leadership Advisory Board member. He researched and planned programming opportunities with other student participants, and he wrote the initial draft of the Student Leadership Advisory Board governing document. He also was a program assistant for the Beloit College Office of Intercultural Affairs, organizing a student-led monthly dialogue program.

Last fall, Nadir was invited to join Beloit College President Scott Bierman in a playful, welcoming introduction to first-year students at Beloit's

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Mount Mary University senior dedicated to helping others

During her four years at Mount Mary University, Lissandra Lopez, a senior in Mount Mary University's School of Health Sciences, has held many campus positions, including a data entry worker within the Admissions Operations Office, research assistant within the Office of Institutional Research, peer mentor for first-year students in the Peers, Professionalism and Persistence Program, and tutor for a behavioral statistics course.

Through her active campus



Lissandra Lopez of Mount Mary is preparing for a career in trauma counseling.

involvement, Lissandra has developed a passion for helping others through trauma and is focusing on the specific skills that will help her in the future. "I want to work with kids, mainly focusing on trauma,"

she said. "I'm also really interested in working with the Latino community . . . because there is such great need there."

Mount Mary has proven to be an energetic college. It encourages students to explore the underlying issues of social problems and take action to affect change.

Lissandra is applying for graduate school to study more about behavioral health and pictures herself working in a hospital or clinic one day, specifically

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fall convocation. Currently serving as the student body president and working as a resident assistant, Nadir has considerable experience collaborating and working with various personality types. He regularly communicates with college administrators to increase their awareness of student concerns and helps moderate a weekly meeting to address those concerns. Nadir believes that his work with the college administration and residential life will prepare him for a position at a nonprofit organization in education, counseling, or both.

Throughout his college career, Nadir has chaired several meetings to address policies affecting students, co-facilitated a team to create programming that furthers intercultural understanding, and mentored students to help them achieve their academic and personal goals. He also has devoted efforts towards increasing

civic engagement and voter turnout in the Beloit community.

Nadir recently completed a summer internship at Beloit Memorial High School. There, he helped teach and motivate students in a para-professional role. He also served as the lead producer for a TEDx series hosted by Beloit College. The event featured seven speakers on a wide range of topics. Nadir managed social media surrounding the event, communicated with the TEDx speakers, and coordinated the experience for audience members on the day of the event.

In his final semester, Nadir is looking forward to building upon the relationships he has formed at Beloit College and throughout the local community while continuing to work hard toward a new chapter in his life.



For the 2014-15 academic year, need-based financial aid from federal, state and private sources for WI undergraduates at WAICU colleges and universities fell by \$14M compared to 2013-14. Need-based financial aid for those students from the WAICU institutions themselves increased by almost \$20 M.

Source: Higher Education Aids Board

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helping children cope with traumatic events. "Mount Mary has helped me build my confidence," she said. "I can teach [children] how to be bold, be leaders, and how to do what they want to do in their future."

Lissandra, whose hometown is Milwaukee, chose Mount Mary for the community feel and the university's emphasis on creating strong, bold women. "I was empowered as a woman to take advantage of each and every opportunity that came my way, which I have," she said. "Every place I turn there is someone who believes in me. The

university community's support, along with the support from fellow students and my family, has helped me become a better person."

Because of the Wisconsin Grant, Lissandra can devote her attention to the skills needed to pursue her professional passion. "Being able to depend on the money offered by this grant each year has helped me work to my fullest potential, both in and out of school," she said. "Without this grant I would not have been able to excel academically, network with individuals on my campus community through interactions on

campus, find my passion working with children, teach children in Brookfield elementary school Spanish, or volunteer at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin."

Lissandra is appreciative of the opportunities she has had in and out of the classroom. "I will be graduating in May of 2016 with two degrees, a minor, a certificate, and the pride of being the first person in my family to have earned a bachelor's degree," she said. "With continued funding from Wisconsin, I hope to see more women graduate from college and pursue careers they are passionate about."

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

