

About the WTG

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 61,000 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 (WTG) in 1965 to help qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Fully one-third of the low-income students who apply for the WTG are turned away every year for lack of funds. Each month WTG Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites for whom the WTG has made a significant difference.

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Fashion design major plans to continue giving back

Graduating with a major in Merchandise Management and a minor in Business Administration will prepare Mount Mary College student Danielle Sherrer to pursue her goal of working in a small retail business or boutique. Eventually she hopes to take additional courses in entrepreneurship to launch her own business in which she will support the work of up-and-coming



Danielle Sherrer, of Milwaukee, takes great satisfaction in her volunteer work at a family shelter.

designers from Milwaukee and the surrounding area.

Danielle depends on financial

support from the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) which enables her to attend the school that best meets her long-term career goals. Impressed with the Fashion Design program at Mount Mary, she describes the instructors as "all being experts in their field, pushing students to reach their full potential

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Motivated business major makes connections

You get the impression Austin Foley, a junior majoring in business and minoring in economics at Edgewood College, is going places. He has made the most of his opportunity so far, accomplishing more in two-and-a-half years than many accomplish in four.



Austin Foley, of Beloit, has leveraged internship opportunities to help shape his future.

He has seized opportunities from a young age. As a young man he earned his Eagle Scout designation. He spent summers and school breaks working for his father, an

electrical contractor who launched his own business in Beloit more than ten years ago. That experience is having a major impact on where Austin headed next.

To fulfill one of Edgewood's school of business requirements, Austin recently completed an internship with an electrical supply company in Madison. "I had a great internship experience there," he says. That opportunity, coupled with financial aid, helped enable Austin's education. Always looking to 'network,' he asked for some advice

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and nothing less than that.” Danielle needed no convincing that a small private school would offer the kind of learning environment in which she thrives. The WTG covered enough of her expenses to allow her to achieve a goal that at times seemed out of her reach.

Outside of the classroom Danielle finds time to be on Mount Mary’s NCAA Division III cross-country team, and she also holds a job as a sales associate at a retail store in a Milwaukee-area mall.

Danielle volunteers with a children’s program one night a week at a shelter affiliated with the Sojourner Family Peace Center. A local nonprofit, Sojourner is dedicated to creating peaceful communities free from domestic violence by providing education, advocacy, and resources to keep people safe. Danielle’s role is to work

with the children who are current residents at the shelter, teaching and reinforcing ideas that violence is unacceptable. She also teaches safety skills aimed at protecting the children in future situations. Talking about her experience, which is part of Mount Mary’s service learning requirement, Danielle states that she “absolutely loves” what she’s doing and is “having an amazing experience with the children.”

“The uniquely different part about Mount Mary is the emphasis placed on the four core values of competence, community, compassion, and commitment, making them a part of the entire curriculum.” Believing that her Mount Mary education is helping her “build for the future,” Danielle is convinced that “Mount Mary allows you to shine once you hit the real world and look for a career.” She is grateful that WTG and other aid programs make it possible.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Wisconsin’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities offer over 265 different programs of study at the bachelor’s degree level. The five programs with the most graduates during 2011-12 were registered nursing; business administration and management; psychology; accounting; and biology.

Source: IPEDS Completions Survey

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from his boss: what should he do next? They both agreed another internship—somewhere larger—was in order.

His boss volunteered to ‘make a few calls’ on Austin’s behalf. One of those calls paid off big. “It turns out the guy he called from Eaton Corporation graduated from the same high school as I did. He’s from Beloit, and he’s also an Eagle Scout.” Eaton is a publicly traded, global power management company, with an annual budget of nearly \$22 billion.

The new contact moved Austin’s résumé

through to the national office. Austin had a whirlwind set of interviews culminating with a formal dinner with executives from the corporation as one of eight candidates being considered for an internship during summer 2013. The dinner was especially memorable. “I was the only Business major in the room. All the other candidates were in Engineering. It was a little intimidating, too.”

By now you’ve figured out he was offered the opportunity. He says it will be a great next step—but it is just the next step. corner.

Internships and experiential learning are a vital part of a quality education, but, without financial aid students are often unable to seize the opportunities their college and employers offer.



Join the PFA campaign at www.poweroffinancialaid.org

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 College *Milwaukee*
- Northland College *Ashland*
- Ripon College *Ripon*
- St. Norbert College *De Pere*
- Silver Lake College of the Holy Family *Manitowoc*
- Viterbo University *La Crosse*
- Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

