

# WTG *Achievers*

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## About WTG

*The 21 private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to Wisconsin, educating more than 52,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need help to attend the college of their choice.*

*The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965. Its goal is to help financially needy Wisconsin citizens to succeed. There are only enough funds allocated to WTG to cover about half of the needy students who apply every year. Each month WTG Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites for whom WTG has made a difference.*

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## Lawrence Musician Ready to Lead



*Ingrid Lestrud of Hammond, a senior at Lawrence University*

Growing up on a small dairy farm in rural Hammond, Ingrid Lestrud always knew she wanted the best college education she could afford.

Salutatorian of her graduating class at St. Croix Central High School, she attracted the attention of many outstanding institutions. With the help of a Wisconsin Tuition Grant, she was able to remain in state and pursue her interests in music and performing at Lawrence University's Conservatory of Music.

"I wouldn't be able to attend Lawrence without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant," says Ingrid, who has received a grant as part of her financial aid package each of the past four years.

Making the most of her

opportunity, Ingrid has spent almost as much of her undergraduate career on stage as she has in classrooms and rehearsal studios. A senior majoring in vocal performance with a 3.59 grade point average, Ingrid has performed in two major operas, Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, sung the part of Cleo in Frank Loesser's musical *The Most Happy Fella*, and portrayed Agafya in Lawrence's production of *Anna Karenina*.

In addition, she's performed in numerous concerts with Lawrence's highly regarded

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## Alverno Student Serves as Educational Role Model for Daughter



*Jill Metrey of Milwaukee, a sophomore at Alverno College*

"My Alverno education has already built my self-confidence and has helped me to realize my potential. My

husband was so inspired by the way my education has affected me that he is now enrolled for his first semester of college. My sister is also enrolled to attend college through the U.S. Navy!"

These are the words of Jill Metrey, an Alverno student, wife, and mother. Jill had known for many years that she wanted to attend college, but was thwarted in her first go-round.

Jill was accepted to a Wisconsin university during her senior year in high school, but was unable to attend

because her family did not have the financial resources to fund her education. So Jill did what many others have to do in that situation – she found a job. Although she worked in a variety of environments, she found her jobs unsatisfactory.

During her four years between high school graduation and college, Jill married and started a family. After her daughter was born, her desire for a college education grew stronger.

"I always wanted to go to college, but after my daughter

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**INGRID LESTRUD** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

concert choir the past four years and serves as the choir's rehearsal assistant.

Despite her busy schedule, Ingrid works two jobs to help supplement the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and a Lawrence alumni scholarship she receives to meet her college expenses. She spends six hours a week giving voice lessons and helping out as a rehearsal accompanist at Appleton West High School, and also sings with a local church choir twice a week.

As she looks to the future, Ingrid isn't ruling out a performance someday at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. But if she makes it to that hallowed stage, it may be as a conductor, not a singer. As part of her bachelor of music degree requirements, Ingrid had to take a class on conducting. To both her surprise and delight, the class proved to be an epiphany. "Midway through the course, I became intensely

interested in conducting," said Ingrid. "I discovered conducting is even more intellectually challenging than singing."

She made her debut as a conductor in October, leading a 20-piece chamber orchestra in concert, and is scheduled to serve as assistant director of three performances of Lawrence's production of *The Mikado* in March.

Ingrid isn't sure where her career path will lead her, but she knows she'll embark upon it with an excellent foundation.

"I'm grateful for the many opportunities and experiences I've enjoyed at Lawrence. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant has certainly played a role in helping to make those opportunities possible for me," says Ingrid. "I feel I'm well prepared for whatever the future holds and am looking forward to making my mark."

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

**Students at private colleges and universities are 13.2 percent more likely to remain in school and complete their degrees than students at public colleges and universities.**

**Source: The Council for Aid to Education, 2000**

**JILL METREY** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was born, a college education became even more important to me. I wanted to receive an education not only for personal growth and for professional reasons, but also to set an example for my child," Jill explained.

Jill began looking for a college that was close to home, so she could spend more time with her family. She also wanted a school that would give her the skills and abilities she would need to be successful in her career. When she heard about Alverno's ability-based education, she knew Alverno was the right choice for her.

Jill, who is a transfer student, said, "I have never experienced an academic environment where the professors care not only about your success in the classroom, but also about your success in life." The first in her family to attend college, Jill is currently a full-time, second-semester sophomore, with a double major in biology and professional communication.

"I am able to finally fulfill my goal of attending college, in part, because of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant," Jill said. "I also receive scholarships and loans, and work as a laboratory assistant at Alverno

to help fund my education. I'm so grateful to everyone who has helped me succeed."

Jill is on track to graduate from Alverno College in December 2003. After that, she plans to begin a career in pharmaceutical sales.

"I hope my education will have the same positive effects on my daughter years down the road. Someday, I would like to start a scholarship fund to give people the same opportunity that the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and my other donors have given me," said Jill.

**Wisconsin's Private Colleges and Universities**

Alverno College *Milwaukee*  
 Beloit College *Beloit*  
 Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*  
 Carroll College *Waukesha*  
 Carthage College *Kenosha*  
 Concordia University *Mequon*  
 Edgewood College *Madison*

Lakeland College *Sheboygan*  
 Lawrence University *Appleton*  
 Marian College *Fond du Lac*  
 Marquette University *Milwaukee*  
 Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design *Milwaukee*  
 Milwaukee School of Engineering *Milwaukee*  
 Mount Mary College *Milwaukee*

Mount Senario College *Ladysmith*  
 Northland College *Ashland*  
 Ripon College *Ripon*  
 St. Norbert College *De Pere*  
 Silver Lake College *Manitowoc*  
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*  
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

**WISCONSIN'S  
 PRIVATE COLLEGES**

*From here, you can go anywhere.*