

About the WTG

The twenty-one 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 60,000 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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Lifelong learning motivates athletic training major

Carroll University student Michael Zanotelli is confident in his journey to a bright future. He eagerly takes on greater responsibility for more opportunities to grow and progress along the life plan he has mapped out. Mike is an athletic training major with an exercise science emphasis, and minors in sports nutrition and psychology.



Michael Zanotelli, of Muskego, believes learning is a lifelong pursuit.

"I like athletic training, but

my passion is exercise science. I would like to make athletes strong so they don't

he counts himself fortunate to receive the Wisconsin

break in the first place," Mike says. "I'm also getting really interested in psychology. I like the body-mind correlation." Mike's hometown is Muskego, and

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First-generation student is a role model for her siblings

Jessica Cox, a third-year occupational therapy student at Mount Mary College, learned early in life how much she enjoys making a difference in the lives of others. In high school she was involved in volunteer work with Special Olympics and was responsible for organizing a tutoring group for special education students. She talks about the satisfaction she had in seeing the program grow from two tutors to ten under her leadership, and comments



Jessica Cox, of Milwaukee, wants to be a community leader in order to share what she has learned.

on how proud she is of the students she tutored. When she mentions how well they are all doing, there is a hint of motherly pride in her

homework and encouraging them to set goals for themselves that will pave their way for success in

voice, which seems to come quite naturally to her.

The third oldest of ten children, Jessica has taken on a special role with her younger siblings, helping them with

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Tuition Grant to help him achieve his goals.

In addition to his studies, Mike is the vice president of Sports Medicine Club, a mentoring group for students majoring in pre-physical therapy, athletic training, and exercise science that also volunteers with the Special Olympics. He is a founder and chapter president of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity, which was established at Carroll in the fall of 2011 and does philanthropy to benefit Elimination of Prejudice, an organization working to promote a better understanding between people. Mike also works as a student athletic trainer for Carroll's student athletes.

Another thing that keeps Mike busy is his job as a resident assistant at North Bergstrom, one of the largest freshmen halls at Carroll. This is a step up—a “larger responsibility”—from his RA position last year, Mike explains. “With more

challenges come more rewards.”

One of those rewards is reduced housing costs, which helps him contribute to his education along with the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and other scholarships. “Now I can focus on academics and service to the community. Having a lighter financial load has opened up everything I'm doing now.”

According to Mike's life plan, he'll be part of the workforce in his chosen field, reducing his debt, and building up his savings. Mike will “settle down” into his career and begin working on a master's degree to be a registered dietician. After that, he would like to earn a doctorate in exercise physiology. Mike is committed to lifelong learning and exploring experiences beyond book knowledge. “There is always room to improve,” he says.



During 2010-11, thirty-four percent of the people of color who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Wisconsin did so at a private, nonprofit college or university. In the Milwaukee area, it was nearly sixty percent.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

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school. As the first in her family to attend college, Jessica is eager to be a role model and cheerleader for her siblings, in the same way that her mother was for her. “My mother didn't have the opportunity to go to college, but she values education more than anything,” says Jessica. She mentions that her mother went back to school to finish her GED while raising ten children, an accomplishment that Jessica holds as a very high standard for herself.

Commenting on the value of her Wisconsin Tuition Grant, Jessica says that she never would have considered the pos-

sibility of college if it weren't for her high school counselor and her mother assuring her that resources were available for motivated and hard-working students. They assured her that higher education was an attainable goal for her and that “people are willing to invest in you.”

Describing herself as someone who wants “to help people shape their future,” Jessica spends 15 hours a week doing advocacy work with a Milwaukee agency, Campaign Against Violence, and getting involved in other causes. Not being burdened with worry over her finances has allowed her

to concentrate wholly on her community work. Required to volunteer 350 hours during an academic year to qualify for a component of her financial aid, Jessica has already logged over 400 hours.

The only obstacle Jessica has faced as a college student was choosing a major. She considered nursing and social work before deciding on occupational therapy. “Whatever I do, I know I'll be involved in trying to make life better for people. I want so much to be a leader in the community and share the blessings I've had in my own life.”

Wisconsin's Private Nonprofit Colleges and Universities

Alverno College *Milwaukee*
 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*
 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*

