

## 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.

WTG Achievers is published monthly by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), 122 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2723; 608-256-7761; mail@waicu.org.

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## Hardworking senior finds campus life is the perfect fit

Alyssa Ingles did not expect to find what she was looking for only miles away from where she grew up.

"At first, I never even considered going to college in Wisconsin," says Alyssa. "I spent my first two years at a huge university in Illinois."

The campus life and overall experience just didn't feel right, so she began to explore her options.



Alyssa Ingles, of Brown Deer, works, volunteers, and is a full-time student at Cardinal Stritch University.

Alyssa had always loved school and been a highly motivated student. When her mother encouraged her

to look into Stritch, Alyssa found that she appreciated the smaller class sizes and welcoming atmosphere. "I wanted to be able to know my teachers and classmates," she explains. "I didn't have that at my last school, but at Stritch, everyone is friendly and welcoming. It's just a much better fit for me."

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## College is a family affair for twin sisters

Marquette University freshmen Courtney and Curtesia Robinson know the value of family. Twins who wanted to attend college together, they narrowed their options to schools that offered both of the twins' majors. "We might have separate lives once we get out of college," says Curtesia, "so we are trying to spend as much time together as we can."

Graduates of Harborside Academy in Kenosha, a



Courtney (l) and Curtesia (r) Robinson, of Kenosha, are twin sisters and freshmen at Marquette University.

charter school, Courtney and Curtesia were involved in the WAICU College Readiness program; both had excellent grades and were involved in several extracurricular

activities. Raised in a single-father household, paying for college was stressful for the Robinson sisters, and they didn't know whether Marquette was even possible. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant changed that.

"We are so thankful. It is helpful in more ways than people realize," Curtesia says. "It gives students who have

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Alyssa, who works two jobs and volunteers for a local high school, is very grateful for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

“The WTG really takes off much of the financial burden of attending college,” she says. “If I didn’t receive this grant, I’m sure that I would have to work even more outside of school. This would leave me with a longer time to graduation and with less time for homework and classes,” Alyssa says. “There would be so much more to worry about without the WTG.”

The grant allows Alyssa to dedicate herself to her classes and make the most of her opportunities at Stritch, a privilege she would love to repay as she considers a career in college advising.

When Alyssa transferred to Stritch, she had not yet decided which major to pursue. After

taking a few courses, she discovered her love for communications and its real world applications. The program is a natural fit for the outgoing and friendly senior.

Alyssa has loved many of her courses, but her favorite was Family Communication.

“I’m extremely close to my family,” she explains. “It’s really interesting for me to take what I studied in class and apply it to my relationships with my mom and sisters.”

Stritch began to feel even more like home when her younger sister enrolled as a freshman in the fall.

The hardworking senior looks forward to building a life of passionate service.

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

Wisconsin’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities are doing their part to help people ages 25 and over obtain a bachelor’s degree, with 30 percent of 2011-2012 baccalaureate degree earners coming from this age group. Among UW institutions it was 19 percent.

Source: WAICU research archives and UW Office of Policy Analysis and Research

**Courtney and Curtesia Robinson** continued from page 1

the skills necessary to succeed in college an opportunity. We might not have it otherwise.”

Adds Courtney: “We are less stressed about finances and since we are not worrying about how we are going to pay, we can be more focused on school work—which is what we should be focused on.”

Courtney is majoring in clinical laboratory sciences, and Curtesia is majoring in communication studies with a minor in human resources.

“Marquette provides opportunities for internships, especially because of its location in the city,” Courtney points out. “And we are close to home, which is important, too.”

The twins both play in Marquette’s Pep Band and Wind Ensemble—Courtney plays the clarinet and Curtesia plays the trombone. Active in their home community, they volunteer at the Kenosha Public Museum and organize blood drives.

While both girls do not know exactly what their career paths hold, two things are

certain: they are glad they went to college together, and it was possible only through the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.



Join the PFA campaign at [www.poweroffinancialaid.org](http://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*

