

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 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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Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President & CEO

Wendy Wink
Executive Vice President

Rick Roseneck, editor
Director of Communications

WTG puts Alverno accounting student on path to success

How do students discover the perfect college? For many, it's a matter of a persuasive testimonial, and such was the case for Alverno senior Carla Echeveste. "My sister graduated from Alverno and, after I saw how she progressed and transformed during her time there, I knew Alverno would be the perfect fit for me," she explained.

For Carla, a Milwaukee



Carla Echeveste of Milwaukee, a student at Alverno College.

native, Alverno's unique approach to learning has meant a world of difference. "What I like best about Alverno is the teaching style," Carla said. "I have

friends at other universities who just memorize information for exams. At Alverno, we synthesize what we learn and apply it in a real world context, which I think is what sets this college apart from others."

She explains that her biggest epiphany came during an upper-level accounting course designed for working

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WTG helps Marquette senior who values education

Marquette University senior Mariaines Morel knows the value and importance of work and of an education. As a commuter student, she drives an hour every morning and night to travel to and from the Milwaukee campus, confident that a Marquette education is worth it.

Mariaines believes that "education is the only weapon to fight poverty" and that the Wisconsin Tuition Grant program opens doors for many students like herself who would not be



Mariaines Morel of Kenosha, a student at Marquette University.

able to go to college without financial support. A graduate of Tremper High School in Kenosha, Mariaines saw a lot of classmates get jobs right after high school to help support their families. "I'm so

thankful that the Wisconsin Tuition Grant has made it possible for me to beat the odds and to obtain a college degree," she said.

Mariaines will graduate with a degree in Spanish and has completed a number of pre-dental courses and plans on applying to dental school.

She was first introduced to the profession when she began working at Crawford Orthodontic as a sterilization technician. While she

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professionals. “I was working alongside people who had extensive experience in the field,” Carla said. “It was intimidating at first, but it really put my learning into perspective and made me excited to try to reach even bigger goals.”

In the last year, Carla has taken her learning to new heights and applied it on a greater scale. It began with a four-day leadership summit at the Hesselbein Global Academy at the University of Pittsburgh, where she collaborated with student leaders from around the world.

“We worked in groups to explore different situations that helped us further develop our global perspective,” Carla said. “It was an intense learning experience, but I really grew my abilities to think critically and to think outside the box.”

Now Carla is headed to a week-long leadership

conference in Dubai, where she’ll build her skills through simulations and group discussions focused on social and economic policy.

As a recipient of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG), Carla understands what a difference this financial aid has meant. She is grateful it has given her opportunities to dream big and reach high. “WTG has allowed me to explore interests that I might not have otherwise found,” she explained. “

Carla has built an active life for herself outside of the classroom as well. She served as the president of Hispanic Women of Alverno, worked as a Student Ambassador on campus, volunteers in her community, and has worked as a peer tutor since her freshman year. Now, she’s working to develop an Alverno chapter of the Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee.



Minority undergraduates at WAICU schools have a significantly higher graduation rate than UW System schools (almost 7 percentage points higher after six years).

(Source: IPEDS Graduation Rates survey, 2011-2012 data)

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originally planned on becoming a physician’s assistant, she realized when she came to Marquette that her true passion was dentistry.

Dr. John Crawford, D.D.S. and associate professor of graduate orthodontics at Marquette, has been impressed with Mariaines. “Mariaines maturity, motivation and dedication allowed her to start as a sterilization specialist in high school and she is now an orthodontist assistant in training assisting with certain treatments,” noted Crawford. Choosing a health profession was a

natural fit for Mariaines, given her commitment to community service. She volunteers for Walk’n My Shoes, a charity organization that provides clothes to the disadvantaged, and she volunteers at her local elementary school during the summer as a teacher’s assistant.

Home to Wisconsin’s only dental school, Marquette has provided opportunities for Mariaines to engage with the profession and serve her community. She has volunteered at the Give Kids a Smile Day event, which provides free dental screenings and cleanings to more than

600 low-income children every January at the Marquette University School of Dentistry. Mariaines helped Spanish-speaking families fill out paper work and talk to dentists. She also has volunteered for Dental Health Month events, teaching adults and children about the importance of oral health.

“Marquette has a great reputation and provides a great education,” she said. “The Wisconsin Tuition Grant helped make Marquette a reality for me, and I am forever thankful.”

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
- 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

