

## About the WTG

The twenty private, or independent, 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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## Commitment to youngsters motivates Ripon student

For most college students, adapting to residence life can be a big adjustment.

But as the oldest of seven kids, Ripon College's Pachia Xiong was pretty used to cramped quarters. What she wasn't used to was the notion of a private education.

"I had planned to go to the UW, but my high school counselor urged me to also apply to private schools. Ripon was



Performing recently with Lynne Joyce, Ripon College's first lady, Pachia Xiong says college changed her life.

the school I liked the most out of all of the schools I applied to," she says.

Pachia chose to major in psychology with a minor in leadership studies, a decision rooted in an abiding sense of social responsibility.

"I decided to major in psychology because I want to be a counselor and

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## "Moral compass" points to environmental career path

For many students, financial aid is a key element that helps them determine which college they will attend.

For senior Benjamin Hughey, Northland College and a strong financial aid package, along with an environmental studies major, meant the difference between attending college or going to work directly after high school.

Visiting Northland as a high school senior, Benjamin immediately recognized that



Ben Hughey, of Ashland, says the Wisconsin Tuition Grant has eased his transition from high school to college.

the college's commitment to environmental stewardship closely allied with his own moral compass and passion for sustainability.

Inspired by Northland's innovative focus on place-based education, and supported by its unique close-knit community, Benjamin was able to thrive, smoothly making the transition from a

high school senior to a strong contributor to the college and Ashland communities.

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**Pachia Xiong** continued from page 1

help young people,” she says. “If we expect young people to take care of us and our country, we should show them support and compassion and give them what they need in order to succeed—especially troubled youths.”

Being from a large family, Pachia depended upon a generous financial aid package to make Ripon a possibility. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant was a crucial piece of the puzzle.

“If it wasn’t for this grant and the other parts of my financial aid package, I could not have gone to a great school like Ripon. This grant helped me to obtain the education I need to achieve my career goal.”

Pachia’s college résumé makes it hard to believe there was even room in her schedule for classes. In addition to being a resident assistant, she has

been involved, as a volunteer, in the college’s Bonner Program as a coordinator and intern. (Bonner students commit to 10 hours per week of service to the community.) Pachia is also active in both Student Senate and the judiciary board, Student Media and Activities Council, the MLK planning committee, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

After graduation, Pachia plans to find work as a hall director, and then pursue a graduate degree in counseling. She notes that her college experience has changed her in many positive ways.

“I have grown up a lot,” she says. “I learned a lot about myself—to be more open minded than I was, and that I am very patient. I also learned that some of the simple and small things mean the most.”



Students who start as full-time freshman, and stay at the same school, are nearly twice as likely to graduate in four years from a Wisconsin private college or university as from a UW school.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

**Benjamin Hughey** continued from page 1

A model student-athlete and campus leader, Benjamin plays on the college soccer team and was recently elected president of the student association for next year. Encouraged to develop his talents and gifts for leadership by a faculty and staff attentive to the individual needs of each student, he recognizes the important role private higher education plays in developing individuals who will ultimately shape our society. “If we want to create leaders who can continue to create progress in our society,” he says, “it is extremely important to invest in the education of the next generation.”

After he receives his bachelor’s degree from Northland in the spring of 2011, Benjamin plans to pursue graduate studies in agroecology, an emerging field of study that focuses on the role agriculture plays across the world. For the last several years, he has been working for a seed supplier and a leader in pea and bean seed research, and he plans to build on the knowledge he has gained at Northland and through his work experience during his graduate career.

Four years ago, Benjamin considered college to be financially out of reach. Today he is a leader who has made significant

contributions to the campus community and has solid plans for a bright future.

Though complete financial aid packages resemble intricate mosaics, Benjamin recognizes that every source of funding played an essential role in his ability to attend college.

“Without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, college would not have been an option open to me,” he said. “Financial aid allowed me not only to attend college, but to attend the college of my choice.”

**Wisconsin’s Private Colleges and Universities**

Alverno College *Milwaukee*  
 Beloit College *Beloit*  
 Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*  
 Carroll University *Waukesha*  
 Carthage College *Kenosha*  
 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 *Manitowoc*  
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*  
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

