

About the WTG

The twenty 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.

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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Bright skies ahead for Northland meteorology student

Adam Schwantes loves weather, and he has for a long time. When asked how he first got interested in meteorology, he didn't skip a beat. "Twister," he said, referring to the 1996 Hollywood blockbuster. "When I was a kid, I watched it every day, and my interest just grew over time."

A junior double majoring in meteorology and mathematics at Northland College, the future forecaster



Adam Schwantes of Manitowoc, a Northland College junior, is passionate about the weather.

juggles an academic schedule that would give any undergraduate student pause, but

with Faith in Action, a local organization that provides

his involvement doesn't stop in the classroom. In addition to tutoring students in math, physics, and meteorology, Adam sings in Northland choirs and volunteers

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Puzzle maze opens path to Wisconsin Tuition Grant

Mark Jambor just finished his first year at Concordia University Wisconsin and hopes to become a computer programmer specializing in game design.

Mark knows he's choosing an extremely competitive field, but feels a degree from Concordia in computer science will open a lot of doors and opportunities for him.

Like all freshmen, Mark had to face his share of challenges



Mark Jambor of Slinger, a Concordia University Wisconsin sophomore, found his niche in computer game design.

this year, but the transition to college was made easier with the Wisconsin Tuition Grant as part of his student financial aid package. Without

everything you need as a college student," said Mark.

Another big reason for

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assistance to elders in the Ashland community.

Hailing from Manitowoc, Adam graduated from a small private high school and says Northland's small student body was a major factor in his choice of a college. Northland's size allows students to get involved with the campus and surrounding community at a level often unavailable at larger public institutions.

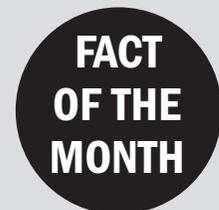
Last summer, Adam interned at the Center for Predictions at the National Weather Service in Washington, D.C. Working on the Center's VAPOR supercomputer, Adam compared several equations used in forecasting to determine which ones produced more accurate results.

The research will help meteorologists better predict weather events like this spring's floods in Tennessee that killed 22 people and caused

more than \$2 billion in damage. Adam said his experience in Washington gives him a leg up on his future, and created the possibility for future opportunities at the National Weather Service.

The attentive Northland faculty, who come to know their students on a first name basis, supported Adam as he pursued his internship. Northland is known for its tight-knit community feel, and Adam says meteorology students also build their relationships through extracurricular activities like the campus chapter of the American Meteorological Society.

Adam's sense of belonging is common at Northland, which is committed to individualized student attention. Financial aid like the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) enables students like Adam to attend the college of their choice and build a brighter future.



Net tuition at a Wisconsin's private colleges has dropped for the fourth year in a row. In 2009-2010, tuition and fees averaged \$24,273. Freshman financial aid packages averaged \$19,660, which is \$1,200 more than last year. The \$4,613 net tuition is the lowest since 2003-2004.

Source:
WAICU research archives

Mark Jambor continued from page 1

choosing Concordia, according to Mark, was the individual faculty attention that's common at Wisconsin's private colleges. Even though Mark has only completed one year of college, he believes the university has already provided him with great learning opportunities, such as being a teaching assistant and participating in an internship.

"Computer programming allows me to create anything I want; I love the idea of becoming a programmer," Mark emphasized.

Born and raised in Slinger, Mark credits his parents for his determination. His mother was a teacher for many years at Slinger Middle School and his father is a mechanical engineer.

When not studying, Mark spends his free time solving puzzles. Puzzles, he says, that are nothing like the cardboard cutouts you put together with your grandmother. This future programmer enjoys three dimensional, twisty, turny, behemoths that challenge him and other students.

"My favorite puzzles make Rubik's Cube

look like a baby's rattle," said Mark. "Whether I get a job programming games or not, I will likely always make games just for fun," he added.

Join the fight to protect the Wisconsin



Tuition Grant along with financial aid for all Wisconsin college students. Find out more online at

ProtectFinancialAid.com.

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*
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- Marquette University *Milwaukee*
- Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design *Milwaukee*
- Milwaukee School of Engineering *Milwaukee*

- Mount Mary College *Milwaukee*
- Northland College *Ashland*
- Ripon College *Ripon*
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